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Sixty-ninth session
Item 113 (c) of the provisional agenda*
Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of fifteen members of the Human Rights Council

Letter dated 1 July 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to write to you regarding the candidature of the Plurinational State of Bolivia for election to the Human Rights Council for the term 2015-2017, at the elections to be held in 2014.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/251, please find attached a statement of the pledges and voluntary commitments of the Plurinational State of Bolivia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would distribute the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under provisional agenda item 113 (c).

(*Signed*) Sacha **Llorentty Soliz**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/69/150.

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Annex to the letter dated 1 July 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Candidature of the Plurinational State of Bolivia for election to the United Nations Human Rights Council for the term 2015-2017

The Plurinational State of Bolivia attaches the greatest importance to international cooperation for the promotion and protection of human rights within the United Nations framework and, in that connection, seeks election as a member of the Human Rights Council for the term 2015-2017.

Bolivia is a founding member of the United Nations and is a party to all international human rights treaties, both regional and universal.

Bolivia was elected by the General Assembly as a member of the Human Rights Council for the term 2007-2010, which was an opportunity to demonstrate its commitment to the effective promotion and protection of human rights.

Bolivia contributed and continues to contribute through its proactive participation in various international forums on the protection of human rights at the international, regional and national levels and has responsibly met its international commitments in this area.

With this experience, our candidature is now submitted for the term 2015-2017. On this occasion we are also committed to prioritizing the consolidation of human rights issues so that the Human Rights Council can continue to strengthen its multilateral leadership.

Promoting human rights on the basis of the Political Constitution of the Plurinational State of Bolivia

The Bolivian people, which is plural and diverse in its composition and inspired by working-class liberation struggles throughout its history, advocated the explicit inclusion of human rights in the text during the Constituent Assembly held from 2006 to 2008.

In January 2009 the text was adopted by a national referendum, so that the Bolivian Government could commit to and promote respect for the exercise of all the human rights explicitly recognized in the new Constitution.

The Constitution is unique in its explicit recognition of all human rights as set forth in international and regional treaties and even extends beyond these rights, with the inclusion of the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, among others.

The Constitution is based on and validated by concern for the collective well-being, as it objectively addresses the needs of the State in terms of providing for access to and enjoyment of material goods and the effective intellectual and spiritual development of the people by ensuring that basic needs are met in harmony with Mother Earth and in a community of human beings.

The Constituent Assembly was composed of 255 representatives of the various social strata of the Bolivian people, and the rights of all social groups in the country

were recognized in more than 100 articles of the new Constitution, in a gender language that ensures equality for Bolivian women and men.

Developments include the recognition and establishment of basic services as the rights of peoples: safe drinking water, sewerage, electricity, household gas, and postal and telecommunications services. These are established as a responsibility that the State must fulfil to ensure a decent life for the population.

The human rights recognized in the Constitution are being implemented progressively through laws, decrees and public policies. In this context, the Office of the Presidential Representative for the 2025 Bicentennial Patriotic Agenda was created by Supreme Decree No. 1506 (2013) in order to develop the 2025 Patriotic Agenda, together with social organizations and movements. This agenda will establish long-term development strategies in the country based on constitutionalized human rights.

Fulfilment of the mandate of international human rights treaties

On the subject of human rights, the Plurinational State of Bolivia has accepted the monitoring of international human rights treaty bodies. The Bolivian Government regularly submits the country reports required by these treaties to the bodies concerned.

The Bolivian Government will continue to work in coordination with the competent bodies at the national level in order to fulfil commitments made in treaties signed and ratified by Bolivia.

A brief overview of our human rights commitments and actions follows below.

Human right to safe drinking water and sanitation

With the aim of promoting constitutionalized human rights within international forums, the Bolivian Government introduced General Assembly resolution 64/292, which was adopted on 28 July 2010 and in which the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation was recognized explicitly for the first time and safe drinking water and sanitation were affirmed as essential for the enjoyment of all human rights. This resolution called upon States and international organizations to provide financial resources, capacity-building and technology transfer to assist countries, particularly developing countries, in their efforts to provide safe, clean, accessible and affordable drinking water and sanitation for all.

The Plurinational State of Bolivia is committed to supporting the exercise of the human right to water and sanitation in a practical way. Accordingly, while these important rights are promoted at the international level, public policies such as national programmes My Water I and II are being implemented and have facilitated Bolivia's early success in meeting the Millennium Development Goals target related to access to safe drinking water.

Right to live free from racism and all forms of discrimination

Pursuant to the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Bolivian Government gave impetus to the drafting of the Law against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination, which was adopted on

8 October 2010 after extensive discussions with civil society and the regulations for its implementation, which were adopted on 5 January 2011.

This law and its regulations were highlighted by the Committee as a "substantive foundation for the design of policies to prevent racism and discriminatory behaviour" and as containing "a definition of racial discrimination that is compatible" with the Convention.

Based on this law and the Committee's recommendations, the Policy of the Plurinational State of Bolivia against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination was created, which constituted the Plan of Action 2012-2015.

The importance of this Plan of Action was recognized by the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, following his visit to Bolivia in 2012.

For follow-up on national and international commitments in this area, Bolivia established the National Committee against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination, which is chaired by the Deputy Minister for Decolonization (Ministry of Cultures) and in which social, indigenous peoples' and campesino organizations, intercultural communities, Afro-Bolivian people, human rights groups and others take part.

Right to participation and social control

In Bolivia, organized civil society has the constitutionally recognized right to participate in the design of public policies and also to exercise social control at all levels of Government with the aim of making public administration transparent.

Within this framework, Act No. 341 on Participation and Social Control, adopted on 5 February 2013, seeks "to strengthen participatory, representative and community-based democracy, based on the principle of popular sovereignty, as well as to build and strengthen the forms of participation and social control of the social sectors and/or organized unions, neighbourhood boards, indigenous and aboriginal farming nations and peoples, intercultural and Afro-Bolivian communities in the formulation, follow up on the implementation and evaluation of public policies of the State, in accordance with one's own organization and in conformity with one's rules, procedures and forms of management."

The broad social participation established in Bolivia reflects the principle of governing by obeying the people, according to which the governor gives power to the governed so that they can participate in the development of public policies designed to achieve the common good.

Women's rights

Bolivia is a party to all international and regional treaties on women's rights. In this context, gender-sensitive language was used in the Constitution and since then, any law, public policy or other national legislation incorporates this gender-sensitive language, which ensures that women are fully visible in the public arena.

The Constitution also guarantees that participation in public life will be fair and equal for men and women (Art. 26), and that the criteria of alternation and parity are observed for any election to be held (Art. 11).

The Bolivian Government implements legislation and programmes that guarantee and consolidate women's rights. A few examples follow:

- **Comprehensive Act to Guarantee Women a Life Free of Violence**, which establishes mechanisms, measures and comprehensive policies for prevention, care, protection and redress for women in situations of violence, as well as prosecution and punishment for perpetrators, in order to guarantee women a decent life in which they can fully exercise their right to live well (2013). This Act has criminalized femicide in the Bolivian Penal Code, imposing the maximum prison sentence (30 years), without possibility of remission, on those who commit this crime. This Act has also created specialized courts to deal exclusively with these offenses. (2013)

- **Political Harassment and Violence against Women Act**, which establishes mechanisms to prevent, address and punish individual or collective acts of political harassment and/or violence against women, in order to ensure that women can fully exercise their political rights. (2012)

- **Comprehensive Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act**, designed to combat trafficking in women and girls in particular, safeguards the fundamental rights of victims by strengthening prevention, protection and care measures and mechanisms, as well as criminal prosecution and penalties for offenders. (2012)

- **Framework Act on Autonomous Entities and Decentralization**, in which multi-year programmes and budgets, operational programmes and annual budgets must include policies, programmes and projects with investments in social and gender equity, thus guaranteeing a real budget that will meet the differentiated needs and demands of both men and women. (2010)

- **Pensions Act**, which provides the necessary mechanisms to close the equality gaps between men and women with regard to the long-term benefits provided in the Social Security system. (2010)

- **Avelino Siñani-Elizardo Pérez Education Act**, which is based on the values of unity, equality, inclusion, dignity, liberty, solidarity, reciprocity, respect, complementarity, harmony, transparency, balance, equal opportunity, social and gender equity in participation, the common well-being, responsibility, social justice and the distribution and redistribution of social goods for the purpose of living well. (2010)

- **National Equal Opportunity Plan: Women Building a New Bolivia for Living Well**, developed jointly by the Government and women's organizations from all over the country in order to identify problems affecting women and to design a long-term strategy to overcome them. (2008)

Rights of indigenous peoples

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples has been fully integrated into the Constitution of the Plurinational State of Bolivia in chapter four, article 30.

In this context, Bolivia is mainstreaming the implementation of the rights of indigenous peoples across all State institutions. The following are a few examples:

– **Act on Free, Prior and Informed Consultation**, for the indigenous peoples in the Isiboro Sécure National Park and Indigenous Territory. This law establishes the process and procedures for consultations. (2012)

Free, prior and informed consultations were successfully completed with the Moxeño-Trinitario, Yuracaré and Chimane peoples in the Territory. This is the first instance in the world of extensive consultations with indigenous peoples. For the first time, more than 60 men and women visited the 1,091,656 hectares that host the Territory's 69 communities.

The experience gained in the consultation process, from the preparations for the consultations to their dissemination, enrichment and approval by the indigenous communities of the three peoples consulted, has been extremely valuable, as it resulted in an unprecedented dialogue both within and between cultures.

The same can be said of the set-up and implementation phase, as well as of the results obtained in each community. The success of this exercise of intercultural democracy was confirmed after careful consideration of the State-provided information, which met all the criteria established in the constitutional framework consisting of the Constitution, international treaties and/or conventions and relevant laws.

Through the consultation process, a number of agreements (mandates) with the executive and legislative branches were negotiated through dialogue, thereby strengthening Bolivian democracy with the participation of indigenous peoples in decision-making.

– **Avelino Siñani-Elizardo Pérez Education Act**, which states that every person has the right to receive all levels of education, and that education is universal, productive, free of charge, comprehensive and intercultural, without discrimination. This act is based on the cultural and linguistic diversity that is considered both the strength and potential of the Plurinational State. (2010)

– **Supreme Decree No. 1313 to regulate the operation of the Plurinational Institute of Languages and Cultures**, established under the Education Act. The Institute supports and develops the cultural and linguistic diversity of indigenous peoples within the framework of living well. (2012)

– **Supreme decree that established the Social and Solidarity Housing Programme**, which is the responsibility of the Ministry of Public Works, Services and Housing. Between 2006 and 2013, the national Government invested more than 1.4 billion bolivianos in the construction of 53,150 social housing units built according to the traditions and customs of the country's various regions. More than 50,000 free or subsidized units have already been provided.

– **Act establishing the Bolivian Institute for Traditional Kallawaya Medicine**, which provides training for the country's indigenous doctors in order to preserve traditional medicine.

– **Act on the Communitarian Agricultural Production Revolution**, which regulates the process of ensuring food sovereignty, establishing the institutional foundations, policies, and technical, technological and financial mechanisms for the production, processing and marketing of agricultural and

forest products by the various actors in the plural economy. It gives priority to organic production in harmony and balance with the bounties of Mother Earth. (2011)

- **Programme for food production and forest restoration**, which has a coordination unit in the Ministry of Rural Development and Land. The goal of this programme is to reforest more than 7,000 hectares and to produce food in an area of more than 60,187 hectares in various municipalities in the country.

Our voluntary commitments for membership in the Human Rights Council:

- ✓ Advocate respect for and protection and enjoyment of all human rights, both civil and political as well as economic, social and cultural, in accordance with the principles of universality, interdependence and indivisibility.
- ✓ Foster a culture of dialogue to resolve any difficulties that may arise from the efforts to uphold human rights.
- ✓ Strengthen multilateralism as the most effective diplomatic tool to promote and defend human rights.
- ✓ Encourage the participation of civil society and indigenous peoples in the decision-making process of the Human Rights Council.
- ✓ Promote recognition of the rights of indigenous peoples within the framework of the instruments and resolutions adopted by the United Nations.
- ✓ Continue to encourage efforts to combat racism and all forms of discrimination at the international, regional and national levels.
- ✓ Maintain an open dialogue and mutual cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.
- ✓ Continue to promote food security as a comprehensive social protection system to contribute to the exercise of the right to food.
- ✓ Participate actively in the universal periodic review in order to further strengthen this important mechanism created by the Human Rights Council.

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Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other elections: election of fifteen members of the Human Rights Council

Note verbale dated 8 August 2014 from the Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

The Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations presents its compliments to the President of the General Assembly and has the honour to inform the Assembly that Ghana has decided to present its candidature for election to the Human Rights Council for the term 2015 to 2017, at the elections to be held during the sixty-ninth session of the Assembly, in November 2014.

In accordance with resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, an aide-memoire of the achievements, voluntary pledges and commitments of Ghana towards the universal promotion and protection of human rights is attached.

* A/69/150.

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Annex to the note verbale dated 8 August 2014 from the Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Candidature of Ghana to the Human Rights Council, 2015-2017

Voluntary pledges and commitments pursuant to resolution 60/251

Membership of Ghana in the Human Rights Council

1. Since the establishment of the Human Rights Council, Ghana has participated actively in its debates and activities, thereby contributing effectively to the Council's collaborative effort to build the consensus necessary for the promotion and protection of human rights around the world.

2. Ghana consistently subscribes to the principle of non-politicization and objectivity in the work of the Council and believes that the Council should continue to endeavour to focus on the enhancement of international cooperation for the promotion and protection of human rights.

3. As a member of the Council for two terms, from 2007 to 2012, Ghana articulated and pursued the interests of victims of human rights abuses around the world. Ghana currently co-sponsors a number of resolutions either individually or through the African Group, such as the resolutions on the rights of girls to education, the prevention of violence against women or child, early and forced marriage.

International commitments

4. Ghana was among the first members of the African Union to subscribe to the African Peer Review Mechanism to be peer-reviewed. In the same vein, it welcomed the system of universal periodic review of the Human Rights Council and was included in the second cycle of the review in 2012. Ghana is gradually but steadily implementing the various recommendations it accepted during the first and second cycles of reviews.

5. Ghana has issued standing invitations to all special procedures mandate holders. Among those who have visited Ghana over the past two years are: the Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and its consequences; the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises; and the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. The Special Rapporteur on torture, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment visited Ghana in November 2013 and submitted his report at the twenty-fifth session of the Human Rights Council, in March 2014. The Ghana Prisons Service is coordinating an inter-agency task force on the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur relating to the conditions of places of detention in Ghana. Ghana is also considering a request by the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination.

6. Ghana is party to key international human rights instruments, including:

- The Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- The Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
- The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- The International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
- The Convention on the Rights of the Child
- The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court
- The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- The International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

7. Ghana has also signed the following:

- The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict
- The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography
- The Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide
- The Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity
- The Convention relating to the Status of Refugees
- The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and its Protocol on the Establishment of an African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights
- Other human rights instruments of the Organization of African Unity and the African Union, including the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
- The United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its supplemental Protocols, namely the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish

Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air

- The Geneva Conventions relating to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts of 12 August 1949 and its additional Protocol relating to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts (Additional Protocol I) and Protocol relating to the protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts (Protocol II)

Human rights at the national level

8. The Government of Ghana is fully committed to the promotion and protection of human rights. In consonance with that commitment, the Constitution of 1992 of the Republic of Ghana has a provision on fundamental human rights and freedom in its chapter 5, article 33 (5), which states:

> The rights, duties, declarations and guarantees relating to the fundamental human rights and freedoms specifically mentioned in this chapter shall not be regarded as excluding others not specifically mentioned which are considered to be inherent in a democracy and intended to secure the freedom and dignity of man.

9. The Constitution of Ghana also guarantees respect for the economic, cultural and social rights of citizens. In this spirit, Ghana has enacted and implemented pieces of legislation and adopted a variety of measures concerning the promotion and protection of human rights to foster the rule of law, good governance and political tolerance in its practice of democracy.

10. The Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice, a constitutional body monitoring human rights, dealing with violations and educating the public on human rights, has been established as an autonomous and independent national human rights institution in full compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights. The Commission has adopted a national plan of action for human rights endorsed by parliament. It also publishes an annual report to create awareness of its activities.

11. Ghana is committed and responding to calls to implement the Declaration contained in the document entitled "A world fit for children" and the Plan of Action towards Africa Fit for Children. Policies related to early childhood development, HIV and AIDS and to orphans and vulnerable children have been developed and community-based organizations working on HIV and AIDS have been trained and equipped with skills to respond to the specific needs of children infected and affected by HIV and AIDS. Ghana cooperates closely with international organizations, including the GAVI Alliance, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, to address the scourge of malaria.

12. Ghana has achieved some of the targets of the Millennium Development Goals, in particular reducing poverty by half.

13. Besides the adoption of the Human Trafficking Act in 2005 and a comprehensive national plan of action to implement the legislation, Ghana has also joined international agreements and concluded bilateral cooperation agreements

with neighbouring countries to combat international trafficking in persons, especially women and children.

14. In recognition of the fact that violence against women undermines women's empowerment, the Government of Ghana has for many years remained committed to addressing the issue of violence and discrimination against women and ensuring equal rights for women in all fields of endeavour in Ghana. To this end, Ghana co-sponsored the Human Rights Council resolutions on violence against women and on the right of girls to education at the twenty-sixth session of the Council in Geneva.

15. The Domestic Violence Victim Support Unit of the Ghana Police Service continues to play an active role in addressing domestic violence since the enactment of the Domestic Violence Act of 2007.

16. The environment in Ghana promotes, protects and encourages the work of human rights defenders, journalists, civil society and the independence of judges and lawyers.

17. Over the past decades, Ghana has cooperated with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to address the refugee situation resulting from armed conflicts in Africa, in particular West Africa, and fulfilled its obligations in respect of international human rights and humanitarian law.

Ghana and human rights in the future

18. The Government of Ghana reiterates its long-standing resolve to cooperate with the international community and all stakeholders to promote and protect human rights globally through constructive dialogue and a consensus-based approach. Ghana therefore voluntarily commits itself to the following:

- To continue to participate actively in the work of the Human Rights Council
- To continue to strengthen policies for the advancement of women to eliminate laws that discriminate against women
- To advance and protect the rights and welfare of children with their best interest as the paramount consideration
- To maintain a standing invitation to all special procedures mandate holders
- To continue to cooperate fully with United Nations human rights treaty bodies and promptly submit its periodic reports to those bodies
- To strengthen the Council to enable it to achieve its aims and objectives
- To ensure that Ghana becomes party to all core human rights instruments and to implement its human rights treaty obligations

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Item 27 (a) of the provisional agenda*
Advancement of women

Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/144 on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women, the present report provides information on measures taken by Member States and activities undertaken within the United Nations system to address violence against women. The report draws conclusions and proposes specific recommendations for future action.

* A/69/150.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 67/144 on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women, the General Assembly urged Member States to continue to adopt a more systematic, comprehensive, multisectoral and sustained approach, aimed at eliminating all forms of violence against women, in the fields of legislation, policies, prevention, law enforcement, victim assistance and rehabilitation, data collection and analysis. It further urged States to increase their focus on protection and the provision of services. The Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly, at its sixty-ninth session, a report with information provided by States and the United Nations bodies, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies on their follow-up activities, including on the assistance of the United Nations entities to States, to implement the resolution. The present report is submitted in accordance with that request. It is based on information received from Member States and entities of the United Nations and covers the period since the previous report (A/67/220) up to 16 June 2014.

II. Background

2. Recent global estimates show that 35 per cent of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence.[1] Most recent regional studies show similar findings.[2] Another regional study on male behaviour demonstrates that the perpetration of rape was pervasive, but varied across countries, while it started early in life with no legal consequences for the majority of the perpetrators.[3] The most common form of violence experienced by women is intimate partner violence, which often leads to injuries and at times to death. As confirmed in a global study on homicide, almost half of female homicide victims are killed by their family members or intimate partners, whereas the figure for men is just over 1 in 20 homicide victims.[4] The current economic crises have exacerbated vulnerability and economic disadvantage for women (see A/HRC/26/39), resulted in cutbacks in social spending on health and education and rendered women more vulnerable to exploitation and violence.[5]

III. Global legal and policy developments

3. United Nations intergovernmental and expert bodies continued to address violence against women. Notably, the Commission on the Status of Women which, at its fifty-seventh session in 2013, adopted agreed conclusions on the topic,

[1] World Health Organization, "Global and regional estimates of violence against women: prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence" (Geneva, 2013).

[2] European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights, *Violence against Women: An EU-Wide Survey* (Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union, 2014).

[3] Partners for Prevention, *Why Do Some Men Use Violence Against Women and How Can We Prevent It? Summary Report of Quantitative Findings from the United Nations Multi-country Study on Men and Violence in Asia and the Pacific* (Bangkok, 2013).

[4] United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, "Global study on homicide" (Vienna, 2013).

[5] Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), "Impact of the global economic crisis on women, rights and gender equality", discussion paper (Geneva, 2012).

highlighting emerging issues, such as the role of information, communication and technology and social media, as well as particular groups of women and forms of violence, such as gender-related killings/femicide. The latter was also addressed for the first time by the General Assembly in its resolution 68/191. The role of the health system in addressing violence, in particular against women and girls, was addressed by the World Health Assembly during its sixty-seventh session (2014). Violence against women in particular situations, such as conflict and post-conflict, was addressed in general recommendation No. 30, as recently adopted by the Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women, in 2013.

4. Internationally agreed measurements about the scope and prevalence of violence against women are essential as this allows global comparison and monitoring of trends over time. To this end, the United Nations Statistical Commission, at its forty-fourth session in 2013, endorsed a set of nine core indicators for surveys on violence against women (E/2013/24-E/CN.3/2013/33). The Commission also endorsed the Guidelines for producing statistics on violence against women: statistical surveys, as developed by the Statistics Division of the Secretariat, to assist countries in assessing the scope, prevalence and incidence of such violence.

5. The Human Rights Council, in its resolutions 23/25 and 24/23, also continued to address violence against women, including its particular forms, such as rape and sexual violence and child, early and forced marriages, as well as remedies for women who have been subjected to violence. Its Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, during its fourteenth to eighteenth sessions, from December 2012 to June 2014, continued to make recommendations relating to violence against women in 70 countries it considered. It specifically recommended that States should ensure effective implementation of laws and policies through adequate allocation of resources and strengthen their efforts in the areas of data collection and analysis, prevention, services provision and prosecution.

6. The special procedures of the Human Rights Council, including the Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and practice and its Special Rapporteurs have continuously addressed the issue, including in the context of country visits (see for example, A/HRC/22/53/Add.5 and A/HRC/25/60/Add.1). In its reports, the Working Group addressed violence as a cross-cutting theme, including as an obstacle to women's equal opportunity and the achievement of their economic, social potential, and their participation in public and political life; and the impact of school-related gender-based violence on access of girls to education (see A/HRC/26/39 and A/HRC/23/50). The Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences examined the topic of State responsibility, and the use of the standard of due diligence, in eliminating such violence (see A/HRC/23/49).

IV. Measures reported by Member States and United Nations entities

7. As at 16 June 2014, 32 Member States[6] and 19 United Nations entities[7] had responded to the Secretary-General's request for information relating to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 67/144. Information was provided on a range of measures taken to address violence against women, which are set out below.

A. International instruments, legislation and the justice system

1. International and regional instruments

8. The international legal framework obligates and guides States in the revision, adoption and implementation of their laws to address violence against women. Member States drew attention to their adherence to a range of international instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto. Many States indicated their progress made towards full adherence to relevant regional instruments, such as the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa and Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. A few States also referred to the resolutions of the Security Council on women, peace and security.

2. Legislation, justice system and measures to end impunity

Enactment and amendment of laws

9. Violence against women is rooted in structural inequality between men and women. Legal frameworks to secure gender equality and protect and promote women's human rights are necessary to effectively address such violence. In order to achieve this, States have enhanced legal frameworks to promote gender equality by incorporating relevant provisions in their constitutions (Paraguay, Qatar and

[6] Albania, Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Cameroon, Congo, Cyprus, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Japan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mexico, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Moldova, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Togo and Ukraine.

[7] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), International Labour Organization (ILO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women.

Congo), and enacting gender equality laws (Albania and Republic of Moldova), or promoting the enjoyment of women's rights to education and decision-making (Cameroon).

10. Legislation provides the foundation for a holistic approach to addressing violence against women and is a prerequisite for eliminating impunity. A comprehensive legal framework which not only criminalizes violence against women but also provides for preventative measures and support for victims and survivors is crucial, as a good practice. Such laws were adopted, for example, in Argentina and Spain. Other States have enhanced their legal frameworks by introducing provisions in their Constitutions to ensure that women are free from violence (Egypt and Paraguay), or by adopting laws which further support victims and survivors by providing, for example, compensation for damages (Estonia).

11. A number of States have adopted or revised legislation to address specific forms of violence against women, such as domestic violence (Albania, Cyprus, Paraguay and Ukraine), sexual harassment (Cameroon, Congo and Republic of Moldova), and femicide (Argentina and Mexico). States have also incorporated provisions related to the protection of women from violence in laws covering broader issues such as gender equality (Finland, Japan and Poland).

12. Member States have enacted and/or amended their penal codes and/or other laws to criminalize acts of violence against women, to increase fines and penalties, and to expand the definitions of violence and the scope of protection. For example, in several States, sentences and fines have been increased (Kyrgyzstan and Paraguay), and aggravating circumstances have been introduced, such as, the victim's age (Germany and Kuwait), and the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator (Estonia and Madagascar).

13. Several States broadened the scope of protection from violence. For example, domestic violence is extended to cover violence committed within relationships, other than marriage (Japan). The definition of rape has been broadened to further comply with international human rights standards, by either including lack of victim's consent, instead of physical resistance, as a requirement (Philippines), or by expanding it to include rape committed within the marriage (Albania and Cameroon). In other States, clauses that exempt prosecution of the offenders are revoked, including forgiveness in marital rape (Philippines), or the subsequent marriage of the victim to the perpetrator (Cameroon). Jurisdiction has been further expanded to cover acts of violence against women and girls, even if committed outside the country (Germany), or regardless the nationality of offenders (Switzerland).

14. United Nations entities have also supported States to adopt or improve laws which address violence against women and girls. For instance, ECLAC, ESCWA, ILO, OHCHR, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA and UN-Women supported national efforts for the development, revision and implementation of laws to address such violence, or one of its forms, in over 50 countries, in the past two years. They provided technical support, contributed to national consultative processes on reform and adoption of legislation, and strengthened information-sharing through the establishment of databases on existing laws in particular regions, as for example, in the Arab region (ESCWA).

Civil protection orders

15. Civil protection orders, which provide for the imposition of restrictions upon the behaviour of perpetrators, or their removal from a joint place of residence in cases of domestic violence, can prove effective for victims of violence. They are available in an increasing number of States (Estonia, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico and Paraguay), and can be mutually recognized in all territories of the country (Australia), while their violation may constitute a criminal offence (Singapore and Slovenia). Some States, including Japan, has extended their application to other forms as well, such as stalking, and Mexico strengthened their uniform registration throughout the country. In some States, though, their uniform application remains a challenge, as reported by Estonia.

Reporting and access to justice

16. Underreporting by women subjected to violence continues to be a challenge. It may be attributed to a variety of reasons, including limited information about victims'/survivors' rights, the high economic cost and complexity of criminal processes, social stigma, as well as lack of confidence in the authorities, as was stressed by the Congo, Mexico, Paraguay and Qatar. In order to address these challenges, States increased the number of female police officers (Azerbaijan, Egypt and Japan), established anonymous reporting systems (Cyprus) and stepped up efforts to inform victims and survivors of their rights and available services, including through helplines, websites and publications, often translated into several languages (Estonia, Finland, Japan, Latvia, Paraguay, Qatar and Spain). In other countries, the criminal proceedings are initiated by the authorities (Poland) and the reporting of violence by professionals who encounter cases of violence is mandatory (Cyprus, Finland and Paraguay). The appropriate enforcement of legislation addressing violence against women can be also critical in increasing reporting, as was stressed by the Philippines.

17. Criminal processes are complex and costly, a fact which may deter women from reporting their cases and further pursuing them in the criminal justice system. In order to address this challenge, States have adopted measures, and/or amended criminal procedures codes or related laws, to make legal proceedings more gender-sensitive and assist victims and survivors throughout the process. Such measures included the provision of free legal assistance, counselling, and accompanying victims and survivors to court proceedings, as a practice which may often prove effective in reducing attrition rates (Albania, Argentina, Cameroon, Congo, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Mexico and Singapore). Some States expanded the procedural rights of victims and survivors (Germany) and provided availability of in-camera testimony at courts to avoid confrontation with perpetrators (Singapore).

18. United Nations entities, including OHCHR, UNDP, UNODC, UNRWA, and UN-Women also supported similar initiatives, including the provision of legal assistance; establishment of mobile courts; and awareness-raising about procedures and survivors' rights. In order to respond to the persisting challenges of women's access to justice, OHCHR, UNDP and UN-Women have developed a global programme, to be implemented in 15 countries, focusing on the reform of gender discriminatory laws and judicial systems, also in the area of violence against women.

Implementation, monitoring and evaluation of laws

19. Specialized training of law enforcement officials and the judiciary as well as the availability of specialized police units, prosecutors and courts for cases of violence against women can provide a safe environment for victims and survivors and improve efficiency and case outcomes. To this end, States appointed specialized judges (Paraguay), established specialized courts or units within courts (Argentina, Paraguay and Spain), and appointed dedicated staff within police units (Germany). Training programmes and the development of relevant material to enhance the gender-sensitivity of police, prosecutors, judges and security forces were carried out in the majority of the countries. In some States, specialized courses and curricula, including on human rights, children's rights, international standards and national legislation addressing violence against women, are provided in law schools and police academies (Argentina, Lithuania, Mexico and Togo). In order to introduce appropriate and clear standards for the implementation of laws, guidelines (Finland) and protocols on investigation procedures were developed (Argentina).

20. United Nations entities and funds, including ESCWA, OHCHR, the Office for Disarmament Affairs, UNDP, UNODC and UN-Women also supported similar training and capacity-building programmes, and developed guidance tools in more than 25 countries. Such initiatives were often carried out in cooperation with civil society, including women's organizations, and included a focus on investigation and prosecution of perpetrators, protection of victims and witnesses, human rights, national legislation and international standards. In order to further enhance the investigation and prosecution procedures in cases of femicide in Latin America, OHCHR and UN-Women developed a protocol model of investigation providing guidelines for the relevant authorities.

21. A few States have evaluated laws and judicial procedures (Australia) and reviewed their implementation in order to identify gaps and challenges (Cyprus and Mexico), although, little information was reported on the impact of enacted legislation. Despite progress made, enforcement of legislation, discriminatory attitudes of law enforcement officials and impunity still remain as challenges, as reported by Albania and Congo. Human rights treaty bodies, while welcoming the adoption of laws to address violence against women in their concluding observations to States parties, have also expressed concern about the ineffective enforcement of legislation, also the result of insufficient allocation of resources, as well as barriers that victims and survivors encounter to access justice.

B. National action plans, strategies and national coordination mechanisms and collaboration

22. National action plans and strategies on violence against women provide a comprehensive framework, when they cover prevention, public awareness and education, support services, data collection and analysis, and they include specific timelines and targets for implementation of activities, as well as monitoring and evaluation mechanisms. States have increasingly adopted dedicated policies on violence against women, often in consultation with women's rights organizations and United Nations entities. A few plans are comprehensive (Finland), while the majority may include measures aimed at supporting victims and survivors; awareness-raising and education; training and capacity-building efforts; and

research and data collection. Some States included in their policies the available budget for implementation (Albania) and measures on the regular evaluation of their impact (Australia). Such plans and strategies address violence against women in general (Australia, Estonia, Finland, Greece and Paraguay), or a particular form of violence, such as domestic violence (Cyprus, Latvia, Poland and Slovenia), and female genital mutilation/cutting (Finland). Some plans place a special focus on particular areas of intervention such as prevention (Australia and Azerbaijan), and on the needs of particular groups of women, which may face increased risk of violence (Finland).

23. The allocation of adequate resources and regular monitoring and evaluation are vital for the effective implementation of plans and strategies and to this end, several States reported on the allocation of resources (Albania, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Lithuania, Paraguay and Republic of Moldova), and other good practices, including the establishment of special mechanisms to carry out monitoring and evaluation (Cyprus). A few countries conducted evaluation of national action plans (Cyprus and Finland), while others stepped up efforts to evaluate the impact of programmes and interventions, in general (Australia).

24. Violence against women is a complex phenomenon and is often interrelated to broader issues in a society. Acknowledging this, some States incorporated targets and activities related to ending violence against women in national action plans and policies covering broader issues such as development (Madagascar, Mexico and Paraguay), gender equality (Cyprus, Japan, Paraguay and Poland), poverty reduction (Finland), as well as sexual and reproductive health and rights (Finland and Paraguay). Other States, including Germany, Spain and Switzerland consider the elimination of violence against women, including in conflict and post-conflict situations, as one of their main priorities in their policies on international development cooperation and support several programmes to this end, covering awareness-raising, research and studies, training and the development of laws and policies.

25. Wide-ranging institutional mechanisms, including working groups, were established in order to coordinate the implementation of national action plans and policies given the multiplicity of responses required, to tackle violence against women in general (Cyprus, Finland and Latvia), or a particular form of violence, such as domestic violence (Slovenia). States took additional measures to enhance the overall collaboration and coordination among different actors, including civil society organizations, such as cooperation agreements between different governmental authorities and the establishment of national working groups and intersectional committees (Albania, Argentina, Cameroon, Congo, Egypt, Estonia, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Paraguay, Singapore, Spain and Ukraine).

26. United Nations entities, including OHCHR, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC and UN-Women, supported the development of national action plans and policies to address violence against women as well as the establishment of coordination mechanisms. In order to better inform national strategies and policies at the regional level, United Nations entities developed joint studies with specific evidence-based recommendations, as for example, in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNDP and UN-Women), and in the Arab region (ESCWA and UN-Women).

27. Despite efforts to enhance implementation of plans and policies, several States identified the lack of adequate resources and limited coordination and capacity of

the authorities as constraints for effective implementation. Human rights treaty bodies have also shared similar concerns and stressed that despite increased efforts there is still high prevalence of violence against women.

C. Prevention measures, including awareness-raising and capacity-building

28. Prevention is increasingly recognized as the only way to eventually eliminate such violence. States identified existing discriminatory societal attitudes and practices as challenges in preventing and addressing such violence (Cameroon) and stressed the need to address its root causes (Estonia). In order to address these challenges, States have stepped up their efforts in increasing public awareness of violence against women, its extent and consequences and in engaging a wide range of stakeholders, including communities, civil society organizations, religious and community leaders, the media, the private sector, youth, men and boys. Given the importance of prevention, Australia established a dedicated foundation to better inform its policies and their implementation in this area. Other States, including, Paraguay and the Philippines, took measures to address women's economic inequality, or, in general, poverty and homelessness (Finland), as means of preventing such violence.

1. Awareness-raising and promoting safety

29. Awareness-raising on the causes and consequences of violence is important, as a component of a holistic strategy to address violence against women. Countries have organized national awareness-raising campaigns on violence against women, often in collaboration with United Nations system agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and in connection with annual commemorations of the 16 Days of Activism to End Gender-based Violence and the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (Albania, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Congo, Greece, Mexico, Togo, and Ukraine). Other awareness-raising initiatives included community mobilization, conferences and debates, often aimed at reaching particular groups of women, such as elderly women and women with disabilities, and addressing particular forms of violence (Azerbaijan, Cameroon, Finland, Lithuania, Mauritius and Slovenia). A wide range of material, television/radio spots and social media have been increasingly utilized in awareness-raising programmes.

30. In order to sensitize staff and officials and strengthen their capacity to address violence against women, States organized training programmes, conferences and seminars, as well as e-learning courses, including on international standards, gender equality and violence against women. Such initiatives targeted governmental officials, traditional and religious leaders, parliamentarians, NGOs, the media and young people (Azerbaijan, Finland and Mauritius).

31. During the reporting period, the United Nations carried out awareness-raising and advocacy initiatives on ending violence against women at the global, regional and national levels. These initiatives included campaigns, conferences, seminars and training programmes, and targeted multiple stakeholders. Many of these awareness-raising and advocacy initiatives were organized in particular under the umbrella of the Secretary-General's campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women". The UN-Women social mobilization and advocacy platform "Say NO — UNiTE to End

Violence against Women" used social media extensively to raise awareness and strengthen partnerships with more than 900 civil society organizations.

32. In order to promote safe environments for women and girls, including in public spaces, UNICEF and UN-Women, including through the global Safe Cities initiative, carried out studies, engaged community leaders and local authorities, and supported programmes to improve urban planning and safety. Women often face safety challenges during the collection of energy sources for the household in remote areas. In order to address this challenge, UNIDO collaborates with Governments to ensure the access of women to these sources in the safest locations.

2. Educational system and working with the media

33. The educational system can contribute towards changing sociocultural attitudes and beliefs that perpetuate violence against women at early stages of children's lives, and promote an environment free from violence and conducing for equality between girls and boys. At the same time, women and girls often face violence within educational institutions. In several countries, specialized training for teachers and general awareness-raising has been provided to sensitize teachers, students and their parents on violence against women and girls, respectful relationships, gender equality and human rights (Albania, Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Cameroon, Cyprus, Estonia, Slovenia, Togo and Paraguay). Other efforts aimed at eliminating harmful gender stereotypes, including through the development or revision of school curricula (Albania, Congo, Paraguay), and strengthening responses to violence within educational institutions, including bullying (Finland).

34. United Nations entities, such as ILO, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF and UN-Women, also supported national efforts to raise awareness of violence against women and gender equality among students, teachers and parents, provided specialized training to teachers and assisted national efforts in revising school curricula. At the global level, UN-Women, in partnership with the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, has developed a non-formal curriculum on ending violence against women and girls, aimed at raising awareness of such violence and its root causes as well as of available services for victims and survivors. In order to strengthen coordination among different stakeholders in their efforts to address school-related gender-based violence, UNESCO, in collaboration with the United Nations Girls' Education Initiative and the Government of France, organized international consultations that resulted in a global mapping of interventions and specific recommendations for collaboration (Paris, April 2014).

35. States highlighted the important role the media can play in raising awareness (Albania) and changing gender discriminatory stereotypes (Paraguay). In order to strengthen this role, States adopted or revised laws to ensure reporting in a gender-sensitive manner (Argentina), or compliance of advertising and the media with human rights standards (Albania and Republic of Moldova). Additional efforts to enhance gender-sensitive reporting by the media, included the establishment of observatories to monitor such reporting (Argentina and Paraguay), and provision of training to journalists (Albania), also supported by UNESCO in some countries.

3. Engaging men and boys

36. Men and boys can play a positive role in challenging gender stereotypes and shaping respectful, gender-equitable attitudes and behaviours. The need to engage men and boys is also confirmed by the findings of recent research, conducted in the Asia-Pacific region by the United Nations inter agency regional programme Partners for Prevention, supported by UNDP, UNFPA, United Nations Volunteers and UN-Women. The findings demonstrate that the perpetration of sexual violence by men against women is often based on their perception of the inferiority of women and a sense of sexual entitlement, as well as the exertion of power over women, while men with more gender-equitable attitudes are less likely to perpetrate sexual violence. States have increased their efforts in engaging men and boys, including through awareness-raising campaigns (Argentina and Paraguay), supporting men's organizations (Philippines), and developing special policies aimed at reaching men and boys (Albania), or including specific measures in their national policies on violence against women (Estonia).

37. United Nations entities, including UNFPA and UN-Women, continued to engage men and boys by involving youth, parliamentarians and sports federations, and conducting awareness-raising campaigns and initiatives. In order to strengthen knowledge on the causes of violence against women, a study examined the association between harmful masculinities and sexual harassment in workplaces (ILO).

4. Programmes for perpetrators

38. In addition to ending impunity for acts of violence against women by punishing perpetrators, a number of States have in place intervention programmes and specialized centres for perpetrators of violence against women in order to change behaviour and prevent further acts of violence (Argentina, Australia, Finland, Latvia, Lebanon, Republic of Moldova and Singapore).

39. Apart from supporting prevention interventions in different countries, the United Nations system intensified its efforts to strengthen knowledge on effective prevention strategies. For example, OHCHR carried out a study on harmful gender stereotypes and how human rights mechanisms address them. In addition, in order to inform the deliberations of the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-seventh session, ESCAP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN-Women and the World Health Organization organized an expert group meeting on the prevention of violence against women and girls (Bangkok, September 2012), during which the experts stressed the need to address the root causes of such violence and identified gaps, challenges and good practices towards this end.

40. Covering the overall range of measures undertaken in preventing violence against women, limited information was provided concerning their sustainability and impact, while human rights treaty bodies continued to express their concerns about the lack of a holistic approach to prevention.

D. Protection, support and services for victims and survivors

41. Victims and survivors require timely access to quality, integrated and coordinated services that respond to injuries, and other health and reproductive

concerns, protect them from further violence, provide them with support, including legal advice, counselling and access to safe accommodation, and address long-term needs, such as finding accommodation and employment.

1. Services and referral mechanisms

42. Support services are increasingly, yet not universally, available. Already existing health services may play an important role in detecting cases of violence against women and girls and providing support and referrals. Such services were provided in Finland and Lithuania, where health professionals also examine women for cases of violence during prenatal, maternity and child health examinations.

43. A promising practice is the provision of services in an integrated and coordinated manner. Services were provided in such manner in some States (Albania, Argentina, Cameroon, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Moldova and Singapore), often tailored to the needs of particular groups of women, such as immigrant women (Finland) or women with disabilities (Spain). Recognizing that civil society organizations, in particular women's NGOs, have significant experience in the provision of services, a number of States have supported their work (Albania, Azerbaijan, Estonia, Finland, Slovenia and Spain), while their role in this area was particularly highlighted in studies conducted by United Nations entities, for example, in the Arab region (ESCWA).

44. In order to achieve better support of victims, several States established referral mechanisms that link relevant sectors (Albania, Argentina and Republic of Moldova), as well as systems to assess the risk women subjected to violence may encounter (Australia, Cyprus, Finland, Japan and Spain). Other developments in service provision include psychological, social and financial assistance (Albania, Estonia, Greece, Lebanon and Qatar); long-term housing (Albania); income-generating activities (Paraguay); and long-term assistance in finding employment (Argentina, Kyrgyzstan and Spain). It is equally important that survivors are supported in their current employment, as it is the case in the Philippines, where, for example, according to the legislation, they are entitled to take a paid leave of absence up to 10 days in addition to other paid leave.

45. Access to such services is often impeded by lack of information about survivors' rights and the available services. In order to address this, States increased awareness-raising about the services availability, also in rural areas, and for particular groups of women such as elderly and migrant women and women with disabilities (Argentina, Finland and Germany). In order to improve the quality of services provided, some States carried out their evaluation (Mexico and Togo). A few States intensified efforts to expand services nationwide (Finland), but in most countries they remain limited and are only available in central locations.

46. As a response to the gaps and challenges that limit survivors' access to quality multisectoral services, UN-Women and UNFPA are implementing the Global Programme on Essential Services for Women and Girls Subject to Violence, aimed at elaborating or adapting already existing global standards for quality service provision. Other United Nations entities, including ILO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, UNRWA, the United Nations Trust Fund and UN-Women supported national efforts in more than 30 countries to establish coordination mechanisms, develop integrated care models and referral mechanisms and improve the access of survivors to services.

2. Shelters and hotlines

47. Shelters, safe houses and safe accommodation in general, are more widely available for victims and survivors of different forms of violence, and their children, as well as for different groups of victims and survivors, such as women with disabilities (Estonia, Cyprus, Finland, Germany, Greece, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritius, Mexico, Paraguay and Singapore). Despite their increasing number, they still remain insufficient to cover the needs of survivors, as stressed by Finland.

48. National hotlines or helplines that provide information, often in several languages, counselling, support and referral services for victims and survivors of violence are in place in a growing number of countries (Australia, Argentina, Cyprus, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Greece, Japan, Latvia and Spain). Their services were monitored and evaluated in Germany.

3. Capacity-building and guidelines for service provision

49. In order to strengthen the capacity of professionals, such as those working in the health and social services sectors, and ensure better quality of services provision, States organized several initiatives, including training and evaluation of its impact (Finland, Mauritius and Spain). In order to ensure more consistent services to victims and survivors, States have developed standard operating procedures, minimum standards of service provision, and issued protocols and regulations (Cyprus, Finland, Paraguay and Spain). Similar training initiatives and development of guidance material or protocols were also carried out by entities of the United Nations, including UNFPA, UNODC and UN-Women, in numerous countries.

50. States identified several challenges in their efforts to provide support services to victims and survivors, including limited coordination, their limited availability and access for survivors, as well as the lack of uniform standards in their provision throughout the country (Albania, Estonia, Germany and Finland). The Special Rapporteur on violence, its causes and consequences expressed serious concerns about the impact of the financial crisis on the core services provision (see A/HRC/26/38), and the human rights treaty bodies reiterated their concerns about lack of adequate and sufficient support services to victims and uneven quality of services provision.

E. Research, data collection and analysis

51. States have undertaken activities to collect data on violence against women through surveys and administrative records and improve knowledge on the magnitude of various forms of violence, its causes and consequences.

1. Data collection through surveys

52. Several States have collected data through dedicated surveys on violence against women, at times with the support of United Nations entities, in relation to the prevalence, types, causes and consequences of such violence (Australia, Cyprus, Estonia, Japan and Paraguay). Some States have collected data on violence against women through crime surveys (Finland). Data collected through surveys indicated that sexual violence against women and girls is often committed by a person the

survivors know, while the majority of them were not aware of the available services (Estonia). At the regional level, the findings of a European Union-wide survey conducted in 28 Member States of the European Union, based on interviews with 42,000 women, reveal that one in three women has experienced some form of physical and/or sexual assault since the age of 15, and that one third of victims of partner violence and one quarter of victims of non-partner violence contacted either the police or support services following the most serious incident of violence.[2]

2. Administrative statistics and enhanced national capacity

53. Administrative data such as the cases reported to police and charges laid, or the actual admissions of victims and survivors of violence to hospitals or shelters, also provide a source of information on the services used and severity of reported cases of violence against women. Several States reported on measures taken to enhance the collection and analysis of administrative data by police, prosecutors, and other relevant authorities (Albania, Argentina, Cyprus, Finland, Japan, Mexico, Paraguay, Philippines, Singapore and Switzerland). Efforts included the development of methodologies for uniform data collection (Philippines).

54. United Nations entities, including ECLAC, UNDP and UN-Women, have supported the collection of statistical information and improvement of methodological tools at the global, regional and national levels, by providing technical assistance; developing guidelines and modules; establishing databases and observatories, and often focusing on particular forms of violence and situations, including humanitarian situations.

3. Studies, research and analysis

55. Studies, research and analysis on violence against women constitute an important knowledge base for policy and programmes development processes. Research and studies covered a range of issues, including the causes of violence (Finland), its particular forms and harmful practices (Switzerland and Togo), often with the objective of informing appropriate responses for victims and survivors (Finland). Other studies covered the impact of children's exposure to violence against their mothers (Cyprus) and the impact of interventions on men's behaviour change (Australia).

56. Several States and United Nations entities carried out an analysis on the economic impact of violence against women, with one estimate suggesting that violence costs the country SwF 164 million up to SwF 287 million per annum (Switzerland), while a study conducted by ECA reveals that 90 per cent of these costs are borne by individuals and communities. Effective methodologies for measuring the socioeconomic impact of violence against women and the cost of intervention are still a developing area, although efforts have been made to advance it, as for example, in South-East Asia, through regional research and the development of a costing methodology (UN-Women). In order to understand better the impact of the financial crisis on overall gender equality and protection and support of women from violence, UNICRI has recently launched relevant research.

57. Entities of the United Nations support enhanced knowledge regarding violence against women through gathering of information, research and studies, often conducted in specific regions such as the Pacific, where UNFPA supported national representative studies on the extent, causes and consequences of such violence, in

eight countries. The UN-Women Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence against Women and Girls is another initiative aimed at strengthening knowledge and providing country-level programming guidance in English, French and Spanish in 11 key areas, including through the recently launched modules on shelters and violence against women in conflict/post-conflict and emergency settings.

58. A number of States emphasized the continuing challenges, including the lack of data on violence against women in general, or particular groups, as well as the lack of uniform data-collection systems (Estonia and Philippines). When administrative data is available, it is often not disaggregated by sex or age (Albania), and does not provide information about the relationship of the victims and survivors and the perpetrators (Estonia). Human rights treaty bodies also expressed their concern about the lack of sex-disaggregated administrative data regarding the types of violence against women and the number of victims.

V. United Nations efforts aimed at achieving greater coordination, collaboration and capacity development to support national efforts

A. Coordination and collaboration

United Nations system-wide initiatives

59. Several key system-wide initiatives have ensured continued priority within the United Nations system on the issue of violence against women and resulted in increased coordination and collaboration among United Nations entities.

UNiTE to End Violence against Women

60. The Secretary-General's campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" continued its advocacy efforts at global, regional and national levels and engaged multiple stakeholders, including high-level officials, also through the Secretary-General's Network of Men Leaders. Particular emphasis was placed on engaging young people, particularly through the engagement of the UNiTE Global Youth Network. In support of its social mobilization efforts, the campaign declared the 25th of each month as Orange Day, a day to take action against violence against women and girls.

United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women

61. To date, the Trust Fund has awarded $95 million to 368 initiatives in 132 countries and territories, and by the end of 2013 it was supporting 78 active initiatives in 71 countries and territories — including 11 United Nations country teams — with grants totalling $56.8 million. Although 12 States contributed a total of $9.6 million to support the Trust Fund's efforts in 2013, the global demand for resources continues to greatly exceed the available funds. The Fund currently provides 84 grants in 73 countries for a total of $58 million, and in 2013, its programmes reached more than 3 million women, men, girls and boys around the world, including more than 30,000 survivors of violence. Given the promising results of community-based approaches and the central role of social mobilization to enact change, the Trust Fund's 2014 call for proposals focused on grass-roots

women's groups and youth-led organizations. Programmes that engage groups facing discrimination and exclusion, such as internally displaced people; refugees; conflict-affected women and girls; and women with disabilities will receive special consideration.

United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict

62. The initiative, comprised of 13 United Nations entities, strengthened its responses to conflict-related sexual violence, through intensified advocacy at the global level, the deployment of specialized advisers and technical support in more than 10 countries, and the development of policy and guidance notes on reparations and the provision of services to survivors. Measures were also taken in more than 20 countries to strengthen policy development and coordination among different actors, as well as training and measurement of such violence. The results of an independent evaluation indicate that the initiative is an effective mechanism for advocacy and coordination in addressing conflict-related sexual violence.

Coordination and collaboration at international and national levels

63. In preparations for the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women on eliminating and preventing violence against women and girls, the United Nations system collaborated closely within the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality in order to identify common priorities and actions. During the session of the Commission, the heads of 11 United Nations entities, funds and programmes (UNDP, UNESCO, WHO, ILO, UNODC, UNICEF, UNFPA, OHCHR, UNAIDS, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and UN-Women) signed the Joint Statement on Ending Violence against Women and Girls, reaffirming their commitment in preventing and responding to such violence and strengthening their collaboration and coordination to achieve it. Following the adoption of the agreed conclusions by the Commission, an inter-agency note on their implementation was prepared to provide guidance to United Nations gender advisers and country offices.

64. United Nations entities have stepped up their efforts to improve collaboration and coordination also at the national level. For example, United Nations entities joined their efforts under the Sustainable Development Goals Fund, as recently created by the Government of Spain and UNDP on behalf of the United Nations system, to support sustainable development activities, including through activities that address violence against women and girls, in 50 countries.

65. Another example of inter-agency collaboration is the Together for Girls initiative of UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNFPA, UN-Women and WHO, developed in partnership with the Government of the United States of America and private sector actors, which has already conducted surveys on sexual violence in eight countries. The results have contributed to the increase of preventative interventions and have informed national policies and programmes in Kenya, Swaziland, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

B. Improving the effectiveness of the United Nations system to support national efforts

66. In order to better support initiatives that address violence against women at the national level, United Nations entities evaluated their work, strengthened their policy frameworks, and expanded their capacity and knowledge. For example, the strategic plans of both UNDP and UNFPA (2014-2017) include reference and activities to address violence against women. UN-Women was subjected to an external evaluation in order to assess its work in the area of ending violence against women, as supported over the past years, and identify gaps and challenges. The evaluation resulted in six specific recommendations for enhancing the entity's response to violence against women. Following evaluation and recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, several United Nations missions took measures to address violence against women, including in humanitarian settings. Several agencies, including UNFPA and OHCHR, increased their capacity to provide support on addressing violence against women by deploying specialized advisers in several countries. Other United Nations entities, such as FAO, addressed violence against women within their organization by introducing guidelines to address sexual harassment.

VI. Conclusions and recommendations

Conclusions

67. **Many actions have been taken by States to prevent and address violence against women. States have strengthened their national legal, policy and institutional frameworks as well as the coordination among a range of different stakeholders. Efforts focused on legal reforms to address violence against women as well as gender inequality. States have increased penalties and introduced new criminal offences, broadened the definitions of violence against women and expanded the scope of support for victims and survivors. Measures were taken to render legal processes more gender-sensitive and strengthen the implementation of legislation through the development of policies and guidelines, and the establishment of specialized police units or courts.**

68. **States continued to complement legal and policy frameworks with initiatives aimed at strengthening data collection and knowledge, capacity-building of officials, and awareness-raising of violence against women, its causes and consequences and available services. Awareness-raising is not always carried out in a systematic manner, however, and it is not extended to remote areas.**

69. **The responses of States have focused mainly on addressing the immediate needs of women in the aftermath of violence through the provision of services, with limited information about long-term support for victims and survivors. Such services still remain insufficient and limited to central locations, while the prevention of violence is still a developing area, and is largely limited to awareness-raising initiatives. Such awareness-raising has been increasingly complemented with educational programmes and mobilization initiatives of multiple stakeholders, such as communities, men and boys and the media. Overall, limited information was provided about the consistency of initiatives,**

the impact of measures and programmes, their monitoring and evaluation and the allocation of adequate resources to ensure their effectiveness and sustainability.

70. Despite intensified efforts, the prevalence of violence against women is still universally high, and the implementation of global and national legal and policy frameworks has been slow and uneven. Remaining challenges include limited allocation of resources to implement laws, policies and programmes and insufficient monitoring and evaluation of their impact; the lack of reliable data to monitor progress; the lack of coordination among multiple stakeholders; underreporting of incidents and high attrition rates; as well as discriminatory attitudes of officials handling cases of victims and survivors and insufficient enforcement of legislation.

Recommendations

71. States should adopt a comprehensive, coordinated, systematic approach to addressing violence against women. This approach should be based on human rights, the safety of victims and survivors and the involvement of multiple stakeholders, in particular women's and survivors' organizations, at all levels. The needs of particular groups of women, who face multiple forms of discrimination, should be taken into account.

72. States should continue to implement the agreed conclusions on the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-seventh session (see E/2013/27-E/CN.6/2013/11, chap. I, sect. A) as a comprehensive blueprint in the areas of laws and policies, services and responses and to address the root causes of such violence and strengthen the evidence base. Strong political commitment at the national level to ensure the implementation of laws, policies and programmes, through the allocation of sufficient resources and accountability mechanisms, as well as monitoring and impact evaluation, is critical.

73. States should continue to adopt and implement comprehensive legal and policy frameworks addressing violence against women and complement them with awareness-raising of victims' and survivors' rights and remedies. States should ensure that accountability mechanisms are in place to ensure the prosecution of perpetrators and that victims and survivors are supported throughout the legal proceedings.

74. Legal, policy frameworks and programmes should address existing gender inequalities, including the economic inequality of women. Provisions should be amended in other areas of laws and policies to enable women to leave violent and abusive relationships.

75. Violence against women should be addressed in laws, policies and programmes addressing broader issues, related to gender equality, public health, education, employment, the eradication of poverty, development and security. States should continue to consider the linkages between gender equality, women's empowerment and violence against women also in future development frameworks.

76. States should enhance their efforts in preventing violence against women by addressing its root causes, as the only way to eliminate such violence. States should ensure that a comprehensive approach to the prevention of violence against women is adopted and resources are increased to monitor and evaluate the impact of such initiatives, including in middle- and low-income countries. Prevention strategies and programmes should be based on research and evidence, while innovative and promising practices should be implemented to generate further evidence.

77. States should ensure that public spaces, the workplace, communities and schools are safe for women and girls. Measures should be adopted to challenge gender stereotypes and social norms that perpetuate violence against women, particularly by promoting equal sharing of responsibilities between men and women in child-rearing and parenting, domestic work and caregiving. States should also ensure early interventions with families and children exposed to or at risk of violence, including through counselling and building the skills needed for respectful relationships.

78. Awareness-raising campaigns should be systematic and extended throughout all areas of the country, tailored for both the general public and particular groups of women. Such awareness-raising is most effective when it is complemented with other initiatives, including community mobilization, educational programmes, policies and curricula that condemn violence and promote gender equality.

79. States should ensure that all victims and survivors of violence and their children have access to quality multisectoral services, including medical treatment, social, psychological, legal assistance and safe accommodation. States should intensify their efforts in providing long-term support, including assistance in finding accommodation and employment. Information about the availability of existing services should be broadly disseminated, including in remote areas, to improve access also for particular groups of women. Such services should be provided in an integrated and coordinated manner and address the needs of particular groups of women.

80. Quality, comprehensive services should be extended throughout the country and be adequately resourced. Coordination among different sectors needs to be further strengthened and referral mechanisms should be reinforced. States should ensure that the work of civil society actors, including women's organizations, in supporting victims and survivors is strengthened.

81. States should ensure the effective implementation of laws, policies and programmes, particularly through the allocation of adequate resources, the systematic training of relevant personnel and the development of specific guidelines. Monitoring and evaluation of the impact of laws, policies and programmes should be strengthened to ensure that any identified good practices can be scaled up.

82. States should ensure the systematic and coordinated collection of data on the prevalence, causes and consequences of violence against women, its analysis and dissemination, and improve the quality and comprehensiveness of its administrative data collected by the relevant services. States should ensure the adoption of the nine core indicators for surveys on violence against women, as

endorsed by the United Nations Statistical Commission, and their proper application at the national level. The development of uniform standards of data collection and capacity-building of statisticians and others to collect data in a gender-sensitive manner are critical. States should use available data to monitor progress, inform legal and policy reforms as well as the provision of effective services.

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Eradication of poverty and other development issues

Promotion of ecotourism for poverty eradication and environment protection

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the report of the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization on the promotion of ecotourism for poverty eradication and environment protection, submitted in accordance with Assembly resolution 67/223.

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Report of the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization on the promotion of ecotourism for poverty eradication and environment protection

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/223 on the promotion of ecotourism for poverty eradication and environment protection. Sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, takes full account of its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities. It applies to all forms of tourism in all types of destinations, including mass tourism and the various niche tourism subsectors.

The present report provides an update since the issuance of the previous report on the subject (A/67/228), with a view to assisting in the promotion of sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, as an element of sustainable livelihoods that fight poverty and promote environment protection.

I. Introduction

1. In General Assembly resolution 67/223, the Secretary-General was requested to submit to the Assembly at its sixty-ninth session, in collaboration with the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) and other relevant United Nations agencies and programmes, a report on the implementation of the resolution, including recommendations on ways and means to promote ecotourism as a tool for fighting poverty and promoting sustainable development. As the specialized agency of the United Nations system vested with a central role in promoting the development of responsible, sustainable and universally accessible tourism, UNWTO was, in turn, requested to take the lead in preparing the present report.

2. Accordingly, early in 2014 UNWTO conducted a follow-up survey among United Nations Member States in order to monitor the implementation of resolution 67/223. For many Member States, national tourism strategies are still current,[1] with most ending in 2020. Some 29 UNWTO member States and territories provided an update since 2012 on issues in the follow-up survey on the implementation of the resolution (see annex for the list of respondents). Among them, 21 countries responded that they had strengthened their national guidelines or frameworks on sustainable tourism since 2012. UNWTO also sought and used input from relevant specialized agencies, United Nations bodies and other international organizations, in addition to reviewing existing relevant initiatives and projects. The present report is based on the responses received and information acquired through this process and on relevant publications and documents of UNWTO, United Nations agencies and international institutions.

II. United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, green economy and developments since the adoption of resolution 67/223

3. At the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012, Member States acknowledged that tourism was a sector capable of making significant contributions to the three dimensions of sustainable development, owing particularly to its highly interactive linkages with other sectors. In the outcome document of the Conference, entitled "The future we want", it was stated that there was a need to support sustainable tourism activities and relevant capacity-building that promoted environmental awareness, conserved and protected the environment, respected wildlife, flora, biodiversity, ecosystems and cultural diversity and improved the welfare and livelihoods of local communities (para. 130). In the same document, the promotion of investment in sustainable tourism, including ecotourism and cultural tourism, which might include creating small and medium-sized enterprises and facilitating access to finance, including through microcredit initiatives for the poor, indigenous peoples and local communities in areas with high ecotourism potential, was encouraged (para. 131). At the Conference, sustainable tourism development was also recognized as one of the 10 sectors to drive change towards a green economy. The 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, an operational

[1] Since the issuance of the previous report of the Secretary-General of UNWTO on the subject (A/67/228).

outcome of the Conference, reinforces sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, as a significant driver for sociocultural and economic change. With 1,087 million international tourist arrivals in 2013, compared with 25 million in 1950, there is an enormous opportunity to accelerate the shift to sustainable consumption and production in the tourism sector and beyond.

4. At the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, UNWTO presented its report on sustainable tourism and sustainable development in Central America (A/68/278), which summarized developments relating to the implementation of resolution 66/196. That report substantiated the importance of sustainable tourism in alleviating poverty and contributing to the socioeconomic and environmental dimensions of global destinations. In the report, proper consideration of the issues of sustainable tourism was encouraged in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda.

5. Tourism, including ecotourism, is implemented differently around the world. It is a cross-cutting sector, and its growth, combined with increased diversification, makes it a constructive agent for development. As the tourism sector depends on wider assets and infrastructure, such as natural and social assets, it is imperative that tourism be well integrated into planning policies and management guidelines. In order to contribute to sustainable development, it must also be economically viable, environmentally sensitive and culturally appropriate in order to minimize negative impacts.

6. Tourism sector leaders expressed their commitment to recognizing resolution 67/223 at the seventh annual Ecotourism and Sustainable Tourism Conference, held in Nairobi in September 2013 on the theme "How tourism can help alleviate poverty and achieve sustainable development", at which they agreed to realize this recognition by disseminating ideas, opportunities and solutions for the tourism sector in order to assist in strengthening the environmental, economic and social benefits of tourism. The eighth such conference, held in Bonito, Brazil, in April 2014 on the theme "Building ecotourism around the world", focused on strengthening the tourism sector's commitment to the resolution by creating a platform for shared best practices.

7. In June 2013, Saint Lucia hosted the first ever Caribbean Green Economy Conference on the theme "Green economy as a vehicle for sustainable development and poverty eradication in the Caribbean". At the Conference, tourism and agriculture were identified as key drivers for economic growth and sustainability owing to their numerous forward and backward linkages to other economic sectors.

8. Governments, the tourism sector, destinations and other stakeholders have addressed challenges to sustainable development, including those related to tourism, through national, regional and international policies. Input received from Member States shows that ecotourism is being increasingly integrated into national frameworks for sustainable tourism, which is consistent with paragraphs 130 and 131 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, which concern sustainable tourism. Meanwhile, UNWTO continues to actively promote the integration of sustainable tourism in both policy-driven and action-oriented initiatives for all tourism stakeholders.

III. International initiatives relevant to ecotourism

9. The outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns, as adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 66/288, provided, for the first time, a global framework of action to enhance international cooperation to accelerate the shift towards sustainable consumption and production. Sustainable tourism, including ecotourism, was recognized as a key vehicle for sustainable development, and a concept note on a sustainable tourism programme based on the 10-year framework, one of five initial programmes, is being drafted through an extensive global multi-stakeholder consultation process. The programme aims to take advantage of tourism's potential to contribute to sustainable development by accelerating sustainable consumption and production patterns while reducing social and environmental impacts over the next 10 years by building on, scaling up and replicating good sustainable tourism practices, guidelines, instruments, models and case studies. The tourism programme is expected to be launched in late 2014 by the future leaders programme.

10. In 2012, at the eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, it was emphasized that tourism was essential as a livelihood option, particularly for indigenous and local communities, which are stewards of rich and biodiverse areas. The fifth national reports of various Member States on the Convention highlighted that well-integrated tourism development contributed to biodiversity conservation and the promotion of environmental protection. A majority of national reports, particularly from the least developed countries, including Bangladesh, Cambodia, Haiti, Mozambique and Nepal, acknowledged that tourism, especially ecotourism and nature-based tourism, was a promising sector for biodiversity conservation; thus, it was being actively integrated into conservation and tourism development master plans. In addition, countries are addressing the Aichi Biodiversity Targets[2] for the increased protection of biodiversity by expanding protected area networks and improving the effectiveness of management of protected areas. For example, in June 2013 Sehlabathebe National Park in Lesotho was approved as an extension of the uKhahlamba Drakensberg National Park, a transboundary park in South Africa and Lesotho, named the Maloti-Drakensberg Park, a World Heritage Site. The Maloti Drakensberg Route is a joint ecotourism initiative that includes over 13,000 km^2 of mountain scenery, including unique biodiversity, more than 22,000 San rock paintings and local cultures.[3]

11. The Steering Committee on Tourism for Development, established in 2010 as an initiative of UNWTO and currently comprising eight other United Nations entities,[4] brings coherence to development efforts for a coordinated and impactful

[2] At the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held in Nagoya, Japan, in October 2010, the parties, recognizing the failure to achieve the 2010 biodiversity target, agreed to a comprehensive new Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, which includes a set of 20 targets for 2020, known as the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

[3] "Maloti Drakensberg Route: byways to Southern Africa's magnificent mountain splendour". Available from www.malotidrakensbergroute.com.

[4] The International Labour Organization, the International Trade Centre, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the World Trade Organization. For more information, see http://icr.unwto.org/sctd.

approach to their respective tourism-related work, including in the area of ecotourism. This joint approach builds on the strengths and expertise of each participating member. In October 2013, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat hosted an expert group meeting on the theme "Sustainable tourism: ecotourism, poverty reduction and environmental protection",[5] in which a number of participating members of the Steering Committee were represented. Among the actions taken at the meeting, the participants took stock of developments in the promotion and management of ecotourism and its contribution to sustainable development.

12. In 2013, UNWTO published the *Sustainable Tourism for Development Guidebook* in response to a request from the European Union Directorate General for Development and Cooperation — EuropeAid, which understood the significance of development opportunities associated with the sustainable development of tourism. The Guidebook demonstrates how the tourism sector can be a vehicle to foster economic and social growth through the achievement of development imperatives while minimizing negative cultural, environmental and social impacts. In particular, the Guidebook highlights the complexity of tourism in its linkages with the economic and social sectors, illustrating its vast potential to build sustainable livelihoods, thus placing tourism high in the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and in the build-up to the sustainable development goals beyond 2015.

13. The theme of World Migratory Bird Day for 2014, "Destination flyways: migratory birds and tourism", highlighted the links between migratory bird conservation, local community development and wildlife watching tourism around the world. Led by UNWTO together with partners,[6] the preliminary phase of the Destination Flyways project has resulted in a set of recommendations for developing sustainable tourism and diversification along flyways in eight countries, to be implemented during a potential main phase that will act as a vehicle for both environmental protection and socioeconomic activities by channelling tourism revenues back into the conservation of the sites. The initiative demonstrates the overall global commitment to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and supports Aichi Target 11, on protected areas, and Aichi Target 14, on safeguarding and restoring ecosystems, with a focus on ensuring ecosystem services crucial to livelihoods.

14. The Global Observatory of Sustainable Tourism, an initiative launched by UNWTO in 2004 in response to the growing demand from tourism organizations and stakeholders for a more systematic application of monitoring, data collection and detection of early warning signals to support evidence-based decision-making while applying the UNWTO methodology for sustainable tourism indicators, has expanded globally. In 2012, two new observatories were opened in China, for a total of five observatories currently operating in the country, while in 2013 the first such

[5] See http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/resources.html.

[6] Partners include the secretariats of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals and the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, Wetlands International, BirdLife International, the secretariats of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Ramsar Convention and the World Heritage Convention, the UNESCO Programme on Man and the Biosphere, the East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership, and the International Union for Conservation of Nature. The preliminary phase of the Destination Flyways project is ongoing with support from the Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety of Germany.

observatory in Europe was inaugurated on the Aegean islands of Greece with the objective of examining the environmental, social and economic impacts of tourism in the archipelago. The first Global Observatory member network in the Americas will be established in La Ceiba, Honduras, and will focus initially on data collection in the region and the Bay Islands. At the first UNWTO Conference on the Global Observatory of Sustainable Tourism, held in Madrid in 2013, it was recognized that, if efficiently planned and managed, tourism had the potential to contribute to environmental protection and poverty reduction by capitalizing on biodiversity assets. It was also recognized that tourism could strengthen the political force for conservation by actively contributing through the stimulation of funding.

15. The year 2013 was designated as the International Year of Water Cooperation in recognition of the need for cooperation in order to ensure the sustainable management of this shared and scarce resource. In support of the initiative, World Tourism Day 2013, on the theme "Tourism and water: protecting our common future", stressed tourism's responsibility and required commitment to preserve the world's water resources. This is of particular importance, as many developing countries use their marine, coastal and riverine resources for the development of ecotourism. Promoting sustainable models of marine and coastal ecotourism is critical not only for natural resource managers but also for the global tourism sector and local communities that depend on marine resources for their livelihoods. World Tourism Day 2013 provided an opportunity to increase awareness of tourism's role in protecting water as a tourism resource and an asset while allowing UNWTO member States to support World Tourism Day through local activities. At the Tourism and Water Ecotourism Conference, held in Tehran in 2013, the focus was on ecotourism adapted to different water environments, such as in deep water and hydrotherapy, and the role of local communities in protecting water resources was discussed. It was recognized that tourism could contribute to water preservation through the sustainable development and effective management of water resources in tourism destinations.

16. Since UNWTO launched the Sustainable Tourism for Eliminating Poverty initiative at the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 2002, it has undertaken numerous activities to realize the initiative, including 25 regional and national training seminars on tourism and poverty reduction in order to build capacities among public officials, non-governmental organizations, the private sector and communities in developing countries. Continuous research by UNWTO has led to the publication of five reports, providing evidence of the impact of tourism in reducing poverty levels, as well as recommendations on how to maximize those impacts. The recommendations focus on the seven mechanisms of the initiative developed by UNWTO, which describe the different ways in which the poor can benefit directly or indirectly from tourism, as follows:

(a) Employment of the poor in tourism enterprises;

(b) Supply of goods and services to tourism enterprises by the poor or by enterprises employing the poor;

(c) Direct sales of goods and services to visitors by the poor (informal economy);

(d) Establishment and running of tourism enterprises by the poor (e.g. microenterprises, small and medium-sized enterprises or community-based enterprises (formal economy));

(e) Tax or levy on tourism income or profits, with proceeds benefiting the poor;

(f) Voluntary giving/support by tourism enterprises and tourists;

(g) Investment in infrastructure stimulated by tourism also benefiting the poor in the locality, directly or through support to other sectors.

17. More than 100 projects under the Sustainable Tourism for Eliminating Poverty initiative have already been approved for implementation, benefiting more than 40 developing countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and the Balkans. Such projects focus on a wide range of activities at the local, national and regional levels and include the following: market access for rural tourism small and medium-sized enterprises, in various Central American countries (2009-2013); ecotourism development in Kribi, in Cameroon (2011-2013); and development of birdwatching tourism in the regional parks in Benin, Burkina Faso and Niger (2011-2013).

A. Ecotourism and indigenous peoples

18. Fostering the responsible use of living heritage for tourism purposes can provide new employment opportunities and help to alleviate poverty while nurturing a sense of pride among community members. The UNWTO study entitled *Tourism and Intangible Cultural Heritage*[7] provides comprehensive baseline research on the links between tourism and intangible cultural heritage, recognizing that the integration of intangible cultural heritage into sustainable tourism development programmes is uniquely suited to assist communities in helping to alleviate poverty and creating sustainable livelihoods while respecting the local heritage and environments.

19. The winner of the Community Award of the World Travel and Tourism Council's Tourism for Tomorrow 2014 Awards, Arviat Community Ecotourism in Canada, developed a responsible tourism, community-based project after a successful land claim by its Inuit people. The organization has created 35 full-time positions, and the project generates more than Can$150,000 each year, supporting local economic development while preserving Inuit culture. The programme has built a tourism sector in Arviat through ecotourism, generating low-volume, high-yield tourism and direct economic benefits to the community through 100 per cent of tourist expenditure in the community.

B. International initiatives relevant to sustainable tourism and ecotourism

20. The Enhanced Integrated Framework for Least Developed Countries welcomed UNWTO as a new observer in December 2013, recognizing the growing importance

[7] UNWTO, *Tourism and Intangible Cultural Heritage* (Madrid, 2012). The report contains examples of good practices from tourism authorities, representatives of the private sector and non-governmental organizations, as well as academic, technical, research and community development experts in the field of intangible cultural heritage and tourism.

of tourism as a key service in the least developed countries. The Framework is a multi-agency, multi-donor Aid for Trade partnership in action for the least developed countries. It assists and supports those countries in becoming more active players in the global trading system by addressing supply-side constraints to trade. The least developed countries are increasingly developing tourism-related projects under the Framework: for example, the Government of Sierra Leone was supported in the development of five ecotourism sites and has received further support from the Enhanced Integrated Framework Trust Fund to implement the tier 2 project on sustainable tourism development and promotion to develop a national sustainable and responsible ecotourism policy and a five-year action plan. In 2014, the Framework launched the Solomon Islands tier 2 project on tourism, which will systematically intervene in the areas of policy/legislation relating to the tourism sector, promote the Solomon Islands as a distinct destination for visitors and strengthen the linkages of the tourism sector with auxiliary sectors in order to diversify livelihood opportunities.

21. The Global Sustainable Tourism Council is an international body that fosters increased knowledge and understanding of sustainable tourism practices and the promotion and adoption of universal sustainable tourism principles. UNWTO is one of the founders of the Council and a permanent member of the Board of Directors, and provides support through an office based in the UNWTO premises in Madrid. In November 2013, the Council launched its criteria for destinations, which offer improved decision-making frameworks to destinations, providing an increased ability to evaluate progress in the sustainable development of tourism. In 2014, the Council strengthened its commitment to assisting destinations in benefiting from the destination criteria by launching the Destination Partner Programme, which gives destination managers options to improve their overall business practices by focusing on training, assessments or global networking.

22. The Global Environmental Facility Small Grants Programme, which is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), continues to support actions that have sustainable tourism components. Under the Small Grants Programme, since 2012 more than 300 projects that address biodiversity, climate change, land degradation, international waters and tourism training have been supported. The Small Grants Programme supports communities' actions by empowering communities to participate in their own development, particularly in initiatives that conserve and restore natural resources. For example, support is being provided to one community-based ecotourism project to improve local livelihoods with the introduction of effective water management, working towards this aim while building resilience to climate extremes.

23. The project of the International Labour Organization (ILO) on rural employment and poverty reduction has been implemented following the publication of its *Toolkit on Poverty Reduction through Tourism*.[8] The Toolkit outlines approaches for relevant stakeholders in the hotel, catering and tourism sector that are interested and involved in poverty reduction through tourism. It also outlines ILO involvement in promoting decent work, which cuts across the Millennium Development Goals, especially in addressing poverty reduction. In the past two and a half years, the programme has been launched in Bangladesh, Brazil, Indonesia, Kenya, the Lao People's Democratic

[8] ILO, *Toolkit on Poverty Reduction through Tourism* (Geneva, 2013). Available from http://www.ilo.org/sector/Resources/training-materials/WCMS_162289/lang--en/index.htm.

Republic, Nepal, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam and will be implemented in Vanuatu in 2014. The "Local economic development through tourism in rural areas" project in Sri Lanka (2011-2016) focuses on facilitating and strengthening stakeholders' capacity to mainstream and promote tourism development, providing more employment opportunities and income for vulnerable rural communities. The project is aimed at creating productive employment, decent work and income opportunities, especially, but not exclusively, for young men and women, and also contributes to the country's risk reduction and recovery measures.

C. Internationally recognized best practices in ecotourism

24. In 2013, the Borneo Ecotourism Solutions and Technologies Society was rewarded for its innovative tourism work with the UNWTO Ulysses Award for Innovation in Non-Governmental Organizations, which recognizes knowledge creation, dissemination and innovative application in the global tourism sector. The organization supports the priorities and programme work of UNWTO, including the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism and the principles set out in the Millennium Development Goals. The organization's submission, entitled "From charity to social entrepreneurship", showed how the organization successfully shifted from its original philosophy of providing welfare to the local community to sustainable projects that empower communities for the long term by building their capacity to set up an ecotourism initiative. The objectives of the organization's tourism initiatives are to promote sustainable tourism, in particular ecotourism, as a tool of poverty alleviation through stakeholder collaboration, capacity-building, community development and environmental conservation that offers alternative livelihoods. For example, in Indonesia, capacity training on the development of organic farming in Rungus has led to an increase in the number of successful entrepreneurs while fuelling the green economy, while in Kudat, thanks to the technical assistance received, the Bavanggazo Longhouse homestay has now become self-sustaining, providing the community with alternative employment opportunities.

25. In Bangladesh, Rupantar Ecotourism, which creates alternative livelihoods through its innovative "Conservation through ecotourism" framework, won the 2013 Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund, which was created by the United States Department of State. The project was also recognized on World Tourism Day in Khulna, Bangladesh, in 2013 for addressing Goal 1 of the Millennium Development Goals, poverty alleviation, while contributing to the conservation of the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest and a World Heritage Site.

26. Funding criteria used by financial institutions recognize partnerships and capacity-building that support tourism projects or programmes in developing countries. For example, the Inter-American Development Bank is fostering sustainable tourism growth in Latin America and the Caribbean. Since 2012, it has financed eight tourism projects worth $196 million in the region, including the sustainable tourism development programme of the State of Pará, in Brazil, and the sustainable development tourism sector in Salta Province, in Argentina. In 2014, it approved support for the implementation of the Belize tourism master plan.[9]

[9] Inter-American Development Bank, "Fostering sustainable tourism across Latin America and the Caribbean". Available from www.iadb.org/en/topics/tourism/fostering-sustainable-tourism-in-latin-america,1604.html.

Moreover, together with the Multilateral Investment Fund, it supports increased private investment and private sector development, including support for microenterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises, tourism product innovation and technical cooperation to promote community-based tourism networks. Similarly, the Asian Development Bank has financed seven programmes[10] with a focus on tourism since 2012, including a South Asia tourism infrastructure development project in Nepal, the national tourism sector development framework and the State government tourism investment plan of the Federated States of Micronesia, and the strengthening of the Mekong Tourism Coordinating Office. The African Development Bank has one ongoing project focusing on youth and tourism enhancement, although 25 other ongoing or approved projects support the tourism sector indirectly. The World Bank continues its funding of tourism as a sustainable development strategy by funding various projects globally, including a $45 million grant for tourism development in Haiti in May 2014.

IV. Tourism and the least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries

A. Least developed countries

27. Tourism has been identified as a priority sector for development, especially given its links to poverty eradication in 90 per cent of the least developed countries. Tourism is one of the top three exports in a majority of developing countries and the lead export for at least 11 least developed countries. Meanwhile, 29 of 48 least developed countries have selected tourism as an important sector for growth and development, given that tourism is among their top three foreign exchange earners.[8] International tourism receipts represent as much as 6 per cent of all exports and 56 per cent of service exports of the least developed countries.[11] Tourism has been a main contributor in the graduation of Botswana, Cabo Verde and Maldives from their least developed country status.[12] The transformative role that tourism can play, particularly when implemented sustainably, in transforming economies was also recognized recently by the World Bank in the potential transformation of the economies and societies of sub-Saharan Africa.

B. Initiatives relating to ecotourism in the least developed countries

28. Recognizing the failure to achieve the 2010 biodiversity target, parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity agreed in Nagoya, Japan, to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, including the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. The follow-up efforts of countries to achieve the Targets highlight the integration of biodiversity conservation into national policy frameworks, as well as the contribution of the tourism sector to achieving those Targets. In the Gambia, the participation of local communities was strengthened with the establishment of site management

[10] In the review of the development banks, all projects with "tourism" in the title were counted, although it is acknowledged that other funded projects may directly or indirectly relate to supporting tourism development.

[11] UNWTO, *UNWTO Tourism Highlights*, 2014 ed. (Madrid, 2014).

[12] UNWTO, *Sustainable Tourism for Development Guidebook* (Madrid, 2013).

committees in all protected areas, while Myanmar and Somalia are integrating tourism into national plans or formulating sustainable tourism master plans. In countries such as Nepal, Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania, where nature-based tourism is a critical source of foreign exchange earning, increased management and community participation are crucial. In 2011 and 2013/14, Nepal was able to observe zero poaching of rhinoceros owing to its multi-pronged strategy involving leadership, park enforcement and sharing of tourism revenues with community stakeholders near wildlife reserves. Similarly, the Rwanda community revenue-sharing initiative allocates 5 per cent of national parks-based tourism revenue to fund socioeconomic activities that benefit the bordering local communities. Tourism has thus been recognized by Member States and others as a key to linking economic development with biodiversity conservation and poverty alleviation.

C. Small island developing States

29. Tourism in islands is characterized by a unique biodiversity and rich cultural heritage; these assets provide significant tourism resources. UNWTO has been promoting sustainable tourism in small island developing States since its early stages. More recently, at the Conference on Sustainable Development of Tourism in Islands, organized jointly by UNWTO and the Government of France in September 2013, tourism was identified as a key driver of sustainable development. In addition, it was recognized that tourism and sustainable development should feature strongly on the development agenda of islands, owing in particular to its ability to support local livelihoods, address poverty alleviation and support the conservation of biodiversity and marine environments. The Conference built on the UNWTO report entitled *Challenges and Opportunities for Tourism Development in Small Island Developing States*, launched at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, and the conclusions contained therein will serve as input to the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, to be held in September 2014 in Samoa.

30. Tourism development has been instrumental to sustainable growth and development for many small island developing States. This is highlighted by the graduation of Cabo Verde, Maldives and Samoa from the category of least developed countries. Tourism is a principal contributor to the development of small island developing States: its total contribution to the Pacific Island economies in 2011 ranged from 35 to 53 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) for countries with high tourism arrivals, such as the Cook Islands, Fiji, Samoa and Vanuatu.[13] For those countries, the figures are projected to continue to rise, from 45 to 60 per cent by 2020, if support such as increased private sector investment and government investment in environmental technology is mobilized. However, a high dependence on the tourism sector also calls for measures to improve its resilience, as small island developing States are often exposed to natural threats, which have an impact on tourism.

[13] World Travel and Tourism Council, Travel and Tourism Economic Impact 2012 series (London, 2012).

D. Initiatives relevant to ecotourism in small island developing States

31. The Caribbean Challenge Initiative supports the implementation of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development and the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as agreed by the parties, by committing to conserving at least 20 per cent of their nearshore and coast environments in national marine protected areas systems by 2020. Nine Caribbean island countries and territories[14] signed the Caribbean Challenge Initiative Leaders Declaration on Marine and Coastal Resources,[15] in addition to 15 companies signing the Corporate Compact, formally committing to working together towards new commitments designed to accelerate and expand efforts to safeguard the region's marine and coast environments. In the Declaration, political leaders acknowledged that the vast marine and coastal resources were a critical resource providing income, livelihoods, food security, shoreline protection, social benefits and overall economic prosperity for the people of the Caribbean, and supported the criteria of effective conservation in the Convention on Biological Diversity. The second phase of the Caribbean Challenge Initiative, launched at the Summit of Caribbean Political and Business Leaders, held in May 2013 in the British Virgin Islands, secured $75 million in funding commitments to safeguard marine biodiversity through the establishment of more marine protected areas while addressing marine pollution, restoration, sustainable tourism, sustainable fisheries and ecosystem-based adaptation and enhancing the implementation of more sustainable business practices.

32. The European Union is funding, under the tenth European Development Fund, the Pacific Regional Tourism Capacity-Building Programme as a key component under the overall Strengthening Pacific Economic Integration through Trade project. The South Pacific Tourism Organization is the implementing agency for the Programme, whose aim is to improve the economic integration of the Pacific countries from the African, Caribbean and Pacific States through strengthened national systems and institutional frameworks to develop trade capacity, increase private sector competitiveness and increase international market access in the tourism sector.[16] The Programme aligns directly with Goal 1 of the Millennium Development Goals, poverty alleviation, and the first pillar of the Pacific Plan, enhancing economic growth, and responds directly to the demands in the Vava'u declaration adopted by leaders of the Pacific countries from the African, Caribbean and Pacific States, in which they called for increased support to the tourism sector in achieving sustainable development.

33. The Barbados green economy scoping study synthesis report (United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), University of West Indies, and Barbados, 2012) provides a practical road map for policymakers and businesses on the greening of tourism, agriculture, fisheries, transportation and building and serves as a best case

[14] The Bahamas, the British Virgin Islands, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

[15] Declaration of Political Leaders at the Caribbean Challenge Initiative Summit of Political and Business Leaders, British Virgin Islands, 17 and 18 May 2013. Available from www.cbd.int/cooperation/cci/doc/leaders-declaration-en.pdf.

[16] South Pacific Tourism Organization, "Pacific Regional Tourism Capacity-Building Programme: inception report and first workplan", 1 March 2012. Available from www.forumsec.org/resources/uploads/attachments/documents/EDF10_2012_PRTCBP_Inception_Report_1st_WP.pdf.

study and a model for the Caribbean. The report analysed five key economic sectors, including tourism, as well as four cross-cutting issues — water, waste, energy and land. Key recommendations for the tourism sector were the adoption and promotion of new energy and resource efficiency policies for hotels, as well as the establishment of new heritage and nature-based tourism sites. The current Barbados green economy model is shared at the regional level, at such events as the first meeting of the Caribbean Green Economy Action Learning Group, held in Saint Lucia in May 2013, and the first Caribbean Green Economy Conference, also held in Saint Lucia. The Caribbean Green Economy Initiative and the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute also use Barbados green economy policy frameworks and the Green Business Barbados programme as regional best case studies.

E. African countries

34. Many countries in Africa have opted for tourism as part of their economic development strategies. Tourism contributions vary considerably by region and within regions, with tourism being well developed in parts of Southern and East Africa, as well as parts of North Africa and in island States in the Indian Ocean. Tourism flows in sub-Saharan Africa have grown significantly in the past two decades from a small base of just 6.7 million international tourist arrivals in 1990 to 33.1 million in 2011.[17] In 2013, tourism's contribution to GDP was $36.6 billion and is forecast to rise by 4.7 per cent in 2014 and by 5.1 per cent per annum during the period 2014-2024, to $63.0 billion by 2024.[18] Africa's tourism growth potential is significant, especially its nature-based and cultural heritage assets, and was recently recognized as a driver of economic development.

35. African States face various constraints to harnessing their tourism potential. They must compete for tourists against other global destinations, cultural attractions and benchmarked international tourist facilities. Some African markets face additional challenges, including security risks, restrictive visa policies and poor infrastructure, particularly in air travel, as the cost, frequency and routing of African airlines reduces competitiveness. At the same time, according to a UNWTO 2014 working paper on the economic value of wildlife watching tourism, Africa's wildlife watching tourism is directly threatened by poaching, which has been identified as a serious issue affecting tourism development in the region, particularly in terms of biodiversity loss, and as a security threat which affects the international perception of African destinations. Although sustainable tourism is being integrated more widely into trade sectors and policies in Africa, there is a need for stronger political support, increased multisector stakeholder coordination and the implementation of standards and regulations.

F. Initiatives relevant to ecotourism in Africa

36. The World Bank sees tourism as a high priority in Africa, as stressed in its 2013 report entitled "Tourism in Africa: harnessing tourism for growth and improved livelihoods". The World Bank highlights that scaling up tourism for

[17] UNWTO, *UNWTO Tourism Highlights*, 2012 ed. (Madrid, 2012).

[18] World Travel and Tourism Council, *Travel and Tourism Economic Impact 2014: Sub-Saharan Africa* (London, 2014).

countries with established tourism sectors involves planning, infrastructure, promotion and financing, while deepening tourism success can be achieved through diversification, strengthening human resources and closely monitoring social and environmental impacts. This builds on the New Partnership for Africa's Development Tourism Action Plan (2010-2015), which recognized tourism as one sector with the most potential to contribute to the economic regeneration of the continent, particularly through the diversification of African economies and the generation of foreign exchange earnings.

37. From mid-2009 to mid-2014, the Collaborative Actions for Sustainable Tourism project was successfully implemented in nine countries in Africa (Cameroon, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, Seychelles and United Republic of Tanzania). Funded by the Global Environment Facility, it was carried out by UNEP as the implementing agency, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) as the executing agency and UNWTO as the associate agency. The project included components on ecotourism and on sustainable tourism governance and management, which were coordinated by UNWTO, and components on environmental management systems, reef and marine recreation and management, and knowledge management, coordinated by UNIDO. For the ecotourism component, UNWTO undertook a best practices study, organized regional capacity-building seminars for key project stakeholders, introduced the Sustainable Tourism for Eliminating Poverty methodology, delivered specific seminars on tourism and biodiversity in the Gambia, Ghana and the United Republic of Tanzania, supported the participating countries in carrying out a tourism value chain analysis in the selected demonstration sites, and worked with local partners to formulate and implement ecotourism projects in Cameroon, the Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria and the United Republic of Tanzania. Within the framework of the sustainable tourism governance and management component, UNWTO carried out field studies in each of the participating countries, which formed the basis for detailed action plans at the national and local levels, as well as a global report entitled *Sustainable Tourism Governance and Management in Coastal Areas of Africa*. The report highlights key issues and approaches of general relevance to sustainable coastal tourism in Africa. It builds on the UNWTO and UNEP publication *Making Tourism More Sustainable: A Guide for Policymakers* (2005), which contains guidelines on governance structures, sustainability aims and management instruments relevant to all types of destinations.

V. Implementation of the promotion of ecotourism for poverty eradication and environment protection

Overall findings of the implementation surveys among Member States

38. Among the relevant findings observed in analysing the 2014 survey was the integration by a growing number of Member States of sustainable development, including ecotourism, in their existing frameworks and policies. In fact, 79 per cent of respondents indicated that they had strengthened environmental protection and natural and cultural heritage frameworks, while four countries reported the adaptation of new frameworks or the enhancement of policies and programmes that had a direct impact on local community and small tourism entrepreneurs in order to

assure the sustainable development of tourism. Since reporting to the General Assembly in 2012, Argentina, Egypt, India, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, South Africa and Viet Nam have launched new national or regional tourism development strategies or revised existing frameworks in order to enhance sustainability while responding to changing global economic, sociocultural and environmental conditions.

39. Tourism development is subject to national legislation; as a result, development initiatives require environmental impact assessments or evaluations, public consultations and business/tourism licensing. This is highlighted by 85 per cent of respondents, who reported conducting impact assessments or evaluations of the impact of sustainable tourism. Several countries, including Australia, the Dominican Republic, Honduras, Nicaragua, Paraguay and Spain, conduct environmental impact assessments as part of national environmental legislation. In the case of Morocco, the protection of the environment has been strengthened by being built into the National Charter for the Environment and Sustainable Development. For others, impact assessments, such as climate change impacts on tourism (Austria), consumption behaviour patterns (Croatia) and national market research (Colombia), are conducted by national authorities.

40. Aside from integrating sustainable tourism into national legislation and policies, a majority of the countries highlighted initiatives that target the increased participation of indigenous and local communities and women. For example, the Democratic Republic of the Congo allocates 5 per cent of income generated from ecotourism to the local communities, especially women who engage in income-generating activities. In Burkina Faso, economic empowerment is a high priority, with women being supported financially and technically to manage ecotourism projects, such as in Tambili, Bazoulé and Tambaga. In the Dominican Republic, the creation of the Solidarity Banking Entrepreneurship Programme supports women who have the knowledge and/or experience to undertake new businesses. The banking partnership created a Guarantee Fund to support women micro-entrepreneurs in obtaining credit for the development of their business plans. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republika Srpska implemented the programme "Women as leaders of the development of rural tourism", which includes training women from rural areas on how to start and operate their own businesses. The Nicaragua Tourism Board has developed a gender strategy for the tourism sector for 2013-2018, which contributes directly to the reduction of gender inequalities in the sector. Tunisia has implemented a project that aims to contribute to the preservation of desert biodiversity and the sustainability of arid lands in three national parks through a new approach to protected area management that integrates ecotourism development and community involvement.

41. A key challenge in the promotion of sustainable tourism for poverty eradication and environment protection reported repeatedly by Member States was facilitating access by small and medium-sized enterprises to financial capital. Among the responding countries, Burkina Faso and the Democratic Republic of the Congo reported facing challenges in the implementation of policies, the integration of tourism in the early stages of planning, conducting assessments, facilitating access to financial capital, increasing the empowerment of women in tourism, and increasing the participation of indigenous and local communities owing to a lack of skilled workers and financial capital. For Andorra, the Czech Republic, Guatemala, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Paraguay and Slovenia, key challenges identified in the

implementation of ecotourism policies at the national or regional level include the mobilization of financial resources, particularly for small and medium-sized businesses, and skilled personnel. Morocco identified the need to strengthen local government and empower local actors at the early stages of planning and development in order for national tourism strategies to be fully integrated into development.

42. In its resolution 67/223, the General Assembly encouraged the provision of technical assistance in strengthening policy frameworks for ecotourism implementation. Among the respondents providing development assistance, including Austria, Australia and Germany, international programmes supporting countries in Africa, Asia, Central America and Eastern Europe were focused on promoting sustainable development that targets poverty eradication and environment protection. For example, Germany's projects (through Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit) include assisting the Lao People's Democratic Republic in the development of a tourism strategy for the protected areas of Hin Nam No; promoting community-based ecotourism management in the Tsinjoriake protected area in Madagascar; and assisting Angola, Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe with tourism development and the promotion of the Kavango-Zambezi transfrontier conservation area. The Government of Japan is collaborating with the Government of Colombia in the "One village, one product" initiative in order to improve living conditions and community involvement. A worldwide movement, the initiative focuses on local origin, self-management and human resources development through the identification of local products for the revitalization of municipalities, including ecotourism and agritourism. Currently, in Colombia 12 such initiatives are being strengthened through partnerships and joint actions. Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso and Colombia highlighted that foremost among their assistance needs was developing tourism skills, producing awareness-raising materials and developing sustainable tourism guidelines.

43. Support for intercountry and subregional cooperation in promoting ecotourism as a means to achieve economic growth and reduce inequalities and as a livelihood alternative has been indicated in the Member States' responses. Some countries, including Cameroon, Croatia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Guatemala, are involved in intercountry, subregional and international cooperation initiatives to promote wildlife protection, particularly through transboundary biosphere or transfrontier parks. A significant number of countries are cooperating in order to preserve natural and cultural heritage. For example, the Honduran Institute of Tourism works closely with the Honduran Institute of Anthropology and History in heritage restoration projects, such as the fort of San Fernando de Omoa, creating new tourism attractions that will strengthen the existing circuit in the region while protecting the habitat at the site. Intercountry and subregional cooperation also offers a platform for the dissemination of best practices through regional and subregional workshops on good environmental practices, including ecotourism. In addition, several countries highlighted that they participated in regional and international meetings, exchanges or conferences. For example, Brunei Darussalam reported that the "One village, one product" programme provided greater exposure and employment opportunities for villages, through the Made in Brunei Expo and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Consumer Fair, which showcased locally made products, such as traditional handicrafts, embroidery and foodstuffs.

44. A majority of responding countries provided updates on relevant initiatives and projects since 2012: 69 per cent of them stated that their best practices were influencing development in other regions or sites. In Burkina Faso, for example, capacity-building, training and the development of new tourism products in Logobou and Tambaga have had a ripple effect on neighbouring communities with similar natural capital that now wish to revive tourism activities around their natural resources. Since 2012, the Czech Republic has developed more than 1,000 km of long-distance cycling routes in the "EuroVelo" trail, which follows sustainable development guidelines, including monitoring specific points through automatic counters. In addition, along the four new EuroVelo routes, new small and medium-sized enterprises are being established, which are important for regional development. In Turkey, the Eastern Anatolia Tourism Development Project, implemented by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism in partnership with UNDP, focuses on transforming the Coruh Valley into an alternative tourism destination by increasing awareness, conducting training programmes for local stakeholders, strengthening local partnerships and developing such events as the Coruh Valley Birdwatching Festival in order to eradicate poverty. Such cooperative ecotourism initiatives highlight how the integration of sustainable development in the tourism sector can address the Millennium Development Goals.

45. Investing in innovation, energy efficiency and renewable resources and putting an economic value on resources are likely to be key strategies to ensure the future sustainability of the tourism sector. Some countries are integrating green initiatives into their national policy frameworks. Greece responded that its "green tourism" action was a strategic choice towards adopting green technologies and energy- and water-saving measures for all types of accommodations. In Bulgaria, the main focus of the new National Strategy for Sustainable Tourism Development, 2014-2030, is strengthening the competitiveness and efficiency of the tourism sector, including the implementation of energy efficiency measures and standards in the tourism sector. These include increasing the use of innovative systems, exchanging know-how and good practices in energy management and eco-management, minimizing energy use and introducing environmental management systems and standards. In Austria, the main findings of a study entitled "Climate change and tourism in Austria 2030", commissioned by the Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Economy, were summarized in sector-specific documents which were made available to all 1,600 tourism communities, as well as to service providers. Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Honduras and Slovenia called for increased dissemination, exchange and transfer of effective innovation systems that will minimize the environmental and sociocultural impact of tourism.

VI. Conclusions and recommendations

46. **The important role of sustainable tourism for development has been acknowledged in various forums, such as the Group of 20 and Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation. In paragraphs 130 and 131 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Heads of State and Government, inter alia, encouraged the promotion of investment in sustainable tourism, including ecotourism and cultural tourism.**

47. **Progress in the promotion of ecotourism has resulted in its being incorporated into national policy and priorities. States and international**

development institutions are increasingly recognizing the importance of cooperation in ecotourism as a means to achieve economic growth, reduce inequalities and improve livelihoods in developing countries. A majority of countries are engaged in cooperative initiatives, and some States responded that they wanted regional and international institutions to prioritize the provision of adequate support to programmes and projects relating to ecotourism, which includes both financial and technical assistance. In this regard, the General Assembly may wish to:

(a) Recommend that all Member States review their current tourism frameworks and policies in order to ensure that the promotion of sustainable tourism for poverty eradication and environment protection is adequately robust;

(b) Encourage Governments, international organizations and the tourism sector to continue to assess and monitor the environmental impacts of tourism while evaluating the effectiveness of various forms of tourism in terms of alleviating poverty, protecting the environment and promoting sustainable development;

(c) Invite Governments and relevant stakeholders to consider using tourism to engage indigenous and local communities in order to preserve indigenous knowledge and know-how, which may lead to innovative tourism strategies that promote sustainable development;

(d) Encourage Governments, international organizations and the tourism sector to improve efforts to measure the role of sustainable tourism in order to allow more evidence-based decision-making, especially in the context of other economic activities;

(e) Invite Governments and other relevant stakeholders interested in creating a national model to establish and join the framework of the UNWTO Global Observatory of Sustainable Tourism in order to improve sustainable development, share best practices and monitor the impact of sustainable tourism on poverty alleviation and environmental sustainability;

(f) Encourage all relevant stakeholders to provide more evidence-based information on how women are integrated into the planning of and decisions on tourism development;

(g) Invite Governments and relevant stakeholders to support local and regional efforts in conservation, including anti-poaching activities. Support for biodiversity conservation can be increased through the dissemination of information and awareness campaigns to all relevant stakeholders, including tourists and national tourism and protected areas authorities;

(h) Invite Governments and international and other relevant organizations to highlight and support best practices in relation to the implementation of relevant guidelines in the tourism sector and to implement and disseminate existing guidelines more widely. This includes:

(i) Support for local business best practice models which support ecotourism development that targets poverty alleviation and conservation;

(ii) Regional models, such as transboundary parks, marine protected areas and protected corridors, that encourage cooperative environmental and social management;

(iii) Application of principles laid out in the UNWTO mechanism for poverty alleviation through tourism under the Sustainable Tourism for Eliminating Poverty initiative and of the Global Code of Ethics for Tourism;

(i) Encourage Governments, the United Nations and specialized agencies to support the coordination and alignment of regional and/or international ecotourism development frameworks in order to assist countries in promoting ecotourism that actively supports poverty alleviation and environment protection;

(j) Encourage Governments, the tourism sector and relevant organizations to adopt policies and practices to promote the full participation and involvement of local and indigenous communities, in addition to the full empowerment of women, in all tourism operations and development;

(k) Invite relevant specialized agencies, United Nations bodies, other organizations and multilateral financial institutions to provide technical assistance to Governments to assist, as appropriate, in:

(i) Strengthening legislative and policy frameworks and their implementation in the context of tourism, including the dissemination of ecotourism knowledge to regional and national organizations to increase awareness;

(ii) Identifying needs and opportunities for interventions to improve tourism's contribution to poverty reduction, securing wider community benefits from tourism as one of the most viable and sustainable economic development options;

(iii) Facilitating the understanding of and capacity to identify priorities and appropriate actions for intervention in the field of sustainable tourism development and/or ecotourism;

(iv) Building capacity, in particular through workshops that support marketing and product positioning for local communities, grass-roots organizations and small and medium-sized businesses;

(v) Design and develop ecotourism products that can ensure market access and can be offered as complementary products in the region;

(vi) Development of awareness-raising materials that target women's empowerment and the youth culture;

(l) Invite the United Nations, specialized agencies and relevant stakeholders to improve the transfer, application, financing and dissemination of innovative technology, especially green technology, to the tourism sector in order to strengthen destinations' competitiveness while increasing environmental protection and to expand employment opportunities or livelihood diversification.

Annex

Survey of the World Tourism Organization on the implementation of resolution 67/223 on the promotion of ecotourism for poverty eradication and environment protection

List of respondents (as at 30 June 2014)

1. Andorra
2. Australia[a]
3. Austria[a]
4. Bosnia and Herzegovina[a]
5. Brunei Darussalam[a]
6. Bulgaria
7. Burkina Faso[a]
8. Cameroon
9. Colombia[a]
10. Costa Rica
11. Croatia[a]
12. Czech Republic
13. Democratic Republic of the Congo
14. Dominican Republic[a]
15. El Salvador
16. Germany
17. Greece
18. Guatemala
19. Honduras
20. Iran (Islamic Republic of)[a]
21. Lithuania
22. Morocco
23. Nicaragua[a]
24. Panama
25. Paraguay
26. Slovenia[a]
27. Spain[a]
28. Sri Lanka[a]
29. Tunisia
30. Turkey[a]

[a] Also responded to the survey conducted in 2012.

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General Assembly

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Sixty-ninth session
Item 23 of the provisional agenda*
Eradication of poverty and other development issues

Promotion of ecotourism for poverty eradication and environment protection

Note by the Secretary-General

Report of the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization on the promotion of ecotourism for poverty eradication and environment protection

Corrigendum

Annex

Replace the annex with the annex below.

* A/69/150.

14-61222 (E) 220914

Please recycle

Annex

Survey of the World Tourism Organization on the implementation of resolution 67/223 on the promotion of ecotourism for poverty eradication and environment protection

List of respondents (as at 30 June 2014)

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2. Australia[a]
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11. Croatia[a]
12. Czech Republic
13. Democratic Republic of the Congo
14. Dominican Republic[a]
15. El Salvador
16. Germany
17. Greece
18. Guatemala
19. Honduras
20. Iran (Islamic Republic of)[a]
21. Lithuania
22. Morocco
23. Nicaragua[a]
24. Panama
25. Paraguay
26. Slovenia[a]

[a] Also responded to the survey conducted in 2012.

27. Spain[a]
28. Sri Lanka[a]
29. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
30. Tunisia
31. Turkey[a]

United Nations A/69/224

General Assembly

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Item 27 of the provisional agenda*
Advancement of women

Trafficking in women and girls

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/145, the present report provides information on measures taken by Member States and activities carried out within the United Nations system to address trafficking in women and girls. The report draws conclusions and makes specific recommendations for future action.

* A/69/150.

14-58578 (E) 180814

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 67/145, on trafficking in women and girls, the General Assembly urged Governments to devise, enforce and strengthen effective measures to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in women and girls. The Assembly called upon Governments to, inter alia: address the factors that increase the vulnerability of women and girls to being trafficked; criminalize all forms of trafficking in persons; strengthen prevention and awareness-raising action; support and protect victims/survivors of trafficking; encourage the media and business sectors to cooperate in efforts to eliminate trafficking; and enhance information-sharing and data collection capacity.

2. The General Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its sixty-ninth session a report that compiled information on interventions and strategies, as well as gaps, in addressing the problem of trafficking in persons. The present report is submitted in accordance with that request and is based on, inter alia, information received from Member States, entities of the United Nations system and other organizations. It covers the period since the issuance of the previous report (A/67/170).

II. Background

3. Trafficking is still a crime in which the majority of victims are women and girls and the majority of traffickers are men. The most recent *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*, produced by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in December 2012, provides an overview of patterns and flows of trafficking in persons at the global, regional and national levels and is based on trafficking cases detected mainly between 2007 and 2010. With regard to women and girls, the report highlights the fact that women account for 55-60 per cent of all trafficking victims detected globally and women and girls together account for some 75 per cent. Moreover, the trafficking of children appears to be increasing, as 27 per cent of all victims are children and, of every three child victims, two are girls and one is a boy. With regard to traffickers, the report notes that while traffickers tend to be adult males and nationals of the country in which they operate, more women and foreign nationals are involved in trafficking in persons than in most other crimes. Women traffickers are often involved in the trafficking of girls and tend to be used for low-ranking activities that have a higher risk of detection.

4. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) has provided its 2012[1] and 2013[2] case data on human trafficking, which also demonstrate that the majority of victims continue to be women and girls. In 2012, IOM provided assistance to 6,499 trafficked individuals. More than half (58 per cent) of those individuals were female. Forty-five per cent of them were assisted by IOM after having been trafficked for the purpose of forced labour, 20 per cent for sexual exploitation, 10 per cent for other or unknown reasons (with slavery-like conditions often reported) and 18 per cent for domestic servitude. In 2013, IOM assisted 6,463 trafficked individuals, most of whom (81 per cent) were adults, with the rest (19 per cent)

[1] IOM Migrant Assistance Division, *Annual Review 2012*.

[2] IOM Migrant Assistance Division, *2013 Case Data on Human Trafficking: Global Figures and Trends* (yet to be published).

being children. More than half (57 per cent) of them were female. More than 65 per cent of them were assisted after having been trafficked for the purpose of forced labour, 14 per cent for sexual exploitation, 10 per cent for other or unknown reasons (with slavery-like conditions often reported) and 7 per cent for domestic servitude. The majority had been trafficked across borders.

5. Responses to trafficking tend to continue to focus on approaches that place greater priority on the prosecution and conviction of the suspects than on support for victims/survivors, despite the fact that the number of prosecutions and convictions in this area remains low[3] and the judicial system is often reliant on victims for testimony. As noted in a policy paper released by the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons, victim testimony is less reliable and less likely to be forthcoming in environments where victim protection is not the key priority.[4] Without the provision of adequate support by specialized and comprehensive services, irrespective of whether victims/survivors agree to participate in criminal proceedings, there is unlikely to be significant change in this area.

6. Prevention efforts are still very much focused on education and awareness-raising campaigns. In the light of the 2012 report of the International Labour Organization (ILO) entitled "ILO global estimate of forced labour: results and methodology", which estimates the number of people in forced labour at nearly 21 million, it is clear that current initiatives are not sufficient to prevent trafficking. The root causes of and risk factors for trafficking, which are many and interrelated, including poverty, gender inequality and lack of viable employment opportunities and of laws and regulations on labour standards to ensure that workers are not exploited, must be addressed if this problem is to be dealt with effectively. On this basis, particular groups of women and girls who face multiple forms of discrimination are even more vulnerable to trafficking. Increasingly, the lack of legal options for migration for people seeking employment in other countries is also a significant risk factor. As noted in an analytical paper prepared by the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons on developments since the adoption of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, specifically on the issue of migration and the lack of opportunities in countries of origin, those who lack appropriate employment or educational opportunities at home see migration as a natural and necessary step to achieving their potential as individuals, or ensuring the survival or prosperity of their families.

III. Global legal and policy development

Resolutions, recommendations and global discussions

7. United Nations intergovernmental and expert bodies continued to adopt resolutions and recommendations to address human trafficking, including in particular trafficking in women and girls. At its sixty-eighth session, the General Assembly adopted its resolution 68/192, on improving coordination of efforts against trafficking

[3] See United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2012*.

[4] See Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons, "The international legal frameworks concerning trafficking in persons" (2012).

in persons. In addition, at the same session a high-level meeting of the General Assembly was held on the Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons (13 and 14 May 2013).

8. Other United Nations intergovernmental bodies also continue to adopt legally binding agreements, resolutions and conclusions relating to trafficking. Most recently, on 14 June 2014 the annual International Labour Conference adopted a legally binding protocol to ILO Convention No. 29, concerning forced or compulsory labour. The protocol addresses the gaps and strengthens the body of instruments with regard to forced labour, including child labour, trafficking in persons and related human rights violations. In addition, specific reference to trafficking in women and girls is made in the agreed conclusions from the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women, as well as in multiple resolutions and discussions of the Human Rights Council.[5]

9. At its thirteenth to eighteenth sessions, the Human Rights Council Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review made 536 recommendations relating to trafficking in persons, especially women and children. Those recommendations were addressed to 77 of the 84 States under review. The recommendations stressed the need for States to intensify their efforts to combat and prevent trafficking and to provide victims/survivors with protection and support. The Working Group recommended that States evaluate and monitor the measures they had undertaken to assess their effectiveness; address the root causes of trafficking; strengthen their efforts to prosecute and punish all perpetrators, including public officials; develop their capacities to address trafficking; and take into account the Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) when developing or implementing measures.

10. The human rights treaty bodies established under the core human rights treaties continued to address the issue of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, in their concluding observations on the reports submitted by States parties. The various committees[6] addressed trafficking in several recommendations, including by calling upon States parties to: strengthen efforts to combat trafficking in persons, in particular women and children, through the implementation of national strategic plans; systematically collect age- and sex-disaggregated data on trafficking in persons; accelerate the adoption of, harmonize and/or strengthen the implementation of anti-trafficking legislation as well as formulate and implement national action plans with a results-oriented approach; conduct awareness-raising campaigns, including for women who wish to leave the country, on labour migration and the risks and consequences of trafficking in women and girls; provide mandatory training to all government officials and social workers on the application of anti-trafficking legislation and on their role in preventing and combating trafficking; establish and provide training to law enforcement officials on gender-sensitive mechanisms and standardized policies aimed at the early identification, referral and support, as well as the protection from retrafficking or refoulement, of

[5] See, for example, Council resolutions 21/20 and 23/5.

[6] The Committee against Torture, the Committee on Migrant Workers, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

victims of trafficking, including internally displaced, refugee and asylum-seeking women; ensure that women and girls are not penalized for crimes committed while they were victims of trafficking, and that they have access to quality medical care, legal and psychological counselling, adequate housing, education, training and income-generating opportunities, as well as legal remedies, residence permit procedures, free legal aid and witness protection programmes, regardless of their capacity or willingness to cooperate in the legal proceedings against traffickers; take preventive measures aimed at addressing the root causes of trafficking, without stigmatizing the victims; and conduct comparative studies on trafficking to identify and address its root causes and potential links with bonded labour, domestic servitude and child marriage.

11. Specific measures have also been recommended with respect to the trafficking of children. For girls in particular, the recommendations include the allocation of specific human, technical and financial resources for the investigation of trafficking for forced marriage and/or servitude.

12. Special rapporteurs of the Human Rights Council continued to issue recommendations on trafficking in persons, especially women and children. The Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, continued to examine the impact of anti-trafficking measures on the human rights of victims of trafficking with a view to proposing adequate responses to challenges such as the prevention of revictimization. In her thematic report to the General Assembly in 2013 (A/68/256), the Special Rapporteur focused on trafficking in persons for the removal of organs and provided recommendations on rights-based responses to addressing trafficking in organs and other emerging forms. In her thematic report to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-sixth session, in 2014, on challenges in developing rights-based responses to trafficking (A/HRC/26/37), the Special Rapporteur focused on such issues as clarifying the parameters of international legal definitions, addressing the root causes of trafficking and identifying ways in which the mandate can further contribute to the global movement against human trafficking.

13. In her thematic report to the Human Rights Council at its twenty-fifth session, in 2014 (A/HRC/25/48), the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography noted an increase in child trafficking as a proportion of all human trafficking and stressed that this increase had been greater for girls. In her report to the Council at its twenty-second session, in 2013 (A/HRC/22/54), the Special Rapporteur focused on the increase in the sexual exploitation of children in the travel and tourism industry, driven by the overall growth of tourism. The report highlighted underreporting and the impunity of offenders as major challenges in combating this phenomenon.

14. The Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, also produced two thematic reports during the reporting period. In the first, on servile marriages, issued in 2012 (A/HRC/21/41), she reaffirmed that under international law, child, forced and early marriages were slavery-like practices. The report supported the conclusions of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights aspects of the victims of trafficking in persons, especially women and children (see A/HRC/4/23, para. 38). The 2013 thematic report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery (A/HRC/24/43) focused on the challenges and lessons learned in combating such forms of slavery.

IV. Measures reported by Member States and United Nations entities to implement resolution 67/145

15. As at 9 June 2014, 28 Member States[7] and 10 United Nations entities and intergovernmental organizations[8] had responded to the Secretary-General's request for information. The reported efforts and measures taken to combat trafficking in women and girls responded to the key elements of resolution 67/145 outlined below.

A. International instruments, legislation and the justice system

16. International law obligates and guides States with respect to the adoption of anti-trafficking laws and policies, and States' adherence to such treaties is indicative of their commitment to action. Of those countries that submitted information for the present report, the majority reported that they were parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Trafficking in Persons Protocol, supplementing the Convention (Australia, Cuba, Cyprus, Georgia, Italy, Kuwait, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Pakistan, Paraguay, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and Ukraine). Currently, 179 Member States are parties and 147 are signatories to the Convention and 159 are parties and 117 are signatories to the Protocol. Some States reported that they were also parties to other related protocols such as the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the Convention (Georgia and Kuwait), while others reported they were parties to other international instruments relevant to combating trafficking in women and girls, such as the Convention on the Rights of the Child and/or the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Cuba, Cyprus, Georgia, Latvia, Luxembourg, Pakistan, Paraguay and Switzerland).

17. Some States also reported they were parties to various international labour conventions (Cyprus, Georgia, Luxembourg, Pakistan, the Philippines and Switzerland).

18. The adoption of effective legislation at the national level is critical for effective action against trafficking in women and girls. Without such action, those responsible for trafficking and its consequences will continue to act with impunity. In the majority of reporting States, the laws relating to offences of trafficking and the associated forms of exploitation (e.g., sexual exploitation, forced labour and organ removal) are specified in their penal codes (Cuba, Denmark, Georgia, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Pakistan, Romania, the Russian Federation, Spain and Switzerland).

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[7] As at 27 June 2014, replies had been received from 22 Member States (Australia, Canada, Cuba, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, Paraguay, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, the Russian Federation, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain and Switzerland). The contributions of 6 other Member States (Cyprus, Georgia, Kuwait, Madagascar, Pakistan and Ukraine), which were received after the deadline for the previous report (A/67/209), are also considered in the present report.

[8] The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the International Organization for Migration.

19. Other States have specific legislation in place that criminalizes trafficking and related offences (Australia, Cyprus, Italy, Mexico, Paraguay, the Philippines and Ukraine) or are considering such legislation (Kuwait and Singapore). Having recently revised their legislation on trafficking, some States have expanded the definition of exploitation. In the case of the Philippines, this definition includes the recruitment of Filipino women to marry foreigners and the recruitment of children to engage in armed activities abroad. In the case of other countries, it includes a range of slavery-like practices, including forced marriage and/or forced labour (Australia, Cyprus and Spain). Some States have exempted victims from prosecution for offences that may have been committed in the course of their being trafficked and exploited, such as illegal migration (Cyprus, Georgia, Pakistan and Singapore). Legislation in many States includes specific offences or references with respect to aggravating circumstances such as related abuses of children or situations in which the perpetrator is a public official (Cyprus, Mexico, Pakistan and Romania). Many have special protections in place for particularly vulnerable groups or, in the case of Cuba, mandate disclosure on the part of any public official regarding suspected trafficking and the sexual exploitation of children.

20. In addition to criminalizing trafficking within the framework of penal law, an increasing number of countries have established legal provisions for victim/survivor protection and support, including legal assistance, temporary and/or residency permits and reflection periods, and protection for witnesses during criminal proceedings (Australia, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Georgia, Luxembourg, Mexico, Poland, Spain, Switzerland and Ukraine). Some States also highlighted the provision of civil and criminal remedies, victim compensation and/or reparation orders for victims/survivors of human trafficking (Australia, Georgia, Latvia and Switzerland).

21. The enforcement of trafficking laws continues to be a challenge for many States, given the still low numbers of prosecutions. The Philippines, however, reported an increase in the number of convictions from a combined total of 29 for the period 2005-2010 to 89 for the period from July 2010 to January 2014. If they are to be effective, the relevant trafficking laws must be strongly enforced and cases prosecuted in a timely manner. This means that the justice system must be equipped and trained adequately to deal with these matters. Some countries have established special police and/or prosecution units and/or specific police action plans on trafficking at the national and/or provincial level (Australia, Cyprus, Denmark, Singapore, Spain and Switzerland), while Slovenia referred to the development of joint investigation teams in South-eastern Europe. While training programmes and materials on human trafficking, including guidelines on investigation and prosecution for police and prosecutors and training for members of the judiciary, have been developed in nearly all of the reporting countries, the effective enforcement and application of laws for trafficking requires a more specialized approach on the part of the criminal justice system.

22. The United Nations system has supported the work of States in developing laws and improving law enforcement and criminal justice system responses to trafficking. Many United Nations entities have contributed to the development of legislation in various countries to address trafficking (the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) and incorporating human rights principles into judicial decisions on gender-based violence (OHCHR). Others have produced specific tools for law enforcement officers, prosecutors and judges (the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime).

B. National action plans, strategies and coordination mechanisms

23. National anti-trafficking strategies, action plans, policies, guidelines or programmes that are aimed at enhancing coordination among relevant national sectors and stakeholders and contain specific measures on trafficking in women and/or children are still common among Member States (Australia, Canada, Cyprus, Finland, Georgia, Mexico, Latvia, Lithuania, Paraguay, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, Singapore, Slovenia and Switzerland). Some States have committed to national plans that have yet to be finalized (Italy and Madagascar). Others reported that they were developing or working from their second or later versions of national action plans (Australia, Denmark, Georgia, the Philippines, Slovenia and Spain). Those States that reported having undertaken formal or regular assessments of their action plans did not specify which measures had been successful or otherwise, but Denmark reported that an external evaluation of its third national action plan would soon be finalized, and Slovenia reported that progress on the implementation of its national action plan was reflected in annual reports of its interdepartmental working group on combating trafficking in persons.

24. National plans and strategies commonly include measures necessary for systematic anti-trafficking work, including: developing/amending laws; effectively investigating and prosecuting trafficking; victim identification and support; data collection and research; capacity-building for professionals dealing with trafficking victims/survivors; awareness-raising; and promoting cooperation among all actors addressing human trafficking. Approaches to trafficking in national plans may vary to a large extent, depending on whether States are countries of origin, transit or destination. Countries of origin may focus on the factors that make women and girls vulnerable to trafficking, and others, such as countries of destination, may focus on the identification and rights of victims. For example, there is an increasing focus on forced labour in industry and the rights of migrant workers in some States (Australia, Canada and Finland), on safe migration in others (Poland and Romania) and on addressing the particular vulnerability of migrant workers to human trafficking in another (the Philippines). With the exception of a small number of Member States (Australia, Japan, Mexico and the Philippines), few identified human rights as the basis for national action to combat trafficking in women and girls, although OHCHR continues to work with Member States and advocate the application of a human-rights-based approach to responding to trafficking.

25. Additionally, if national plans and strategies are to be implemented effectively and the impact of various activities and actions is to be assessed adequately, States must dedicate adequate funds and resources to those measures. Of States reporting during the period under review, however, only a few provided information on the allocation of funds for the implementation of national action plans and programmes (Australia, Canada, Italy and Lithuania). In the cases of those States that did report on the allocation of funds, it was not always clear to which measures the funding had been allocated.

26. National mechanisms for improving coordination among all actors involved in the development and implementation of laws and policies are important in combating trafficking. In the majority of reporting States, such mechanisms include task forces, management or administrative boards, technical commissions, monitoring or ministerial committees and interdepartmental working groups (Australia, Canada, Cyprus, Denmark, Georgia, Germany, Japan, Luxembourg,

Madagascar, the Philippines, Romania, Singapore, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and Ukraine). Certain countries (the Philippines and Romania) have created provincial and/or local coordination and response bodies. Independent oversight of the national approach to trafficking in each State is also important for an effective response to trafficking. Some States have appointed a national rapporteur to carry out this function (Finland, Luxembourg and Slovenia).

C. Bilateral, regional and international agreements and cooperation

27. Owing to the significant transnational and cross-border nature of trafficking, particularly trafficking in women and girls, bilateral, regional and international cooperation is critical to combating and eliminating this crime. Some States reported efforts to strengthen cooperation at the international level through participation in a range of internationally coordinated projects or programmes. For example, Switzerland reported on its contribution to an initiative, with the participation of 12 States parties to the Convention and supported by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, for more effective implementation of the Trafficking in Persons Protocol by overseeing the development of two documents aimed at providing guidance to Member States on problematic concepts reflected in the Protocol.

28. At the regional level, many Member States demonstrated strong commitment to cooperation and collaboration on trafficking. Some States reported on their ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings and the implementation of its accompanying directives (Denmark, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Italy, Poland, Slovenia, Spain and Switzerland). Many countries that are signatories or parties to the European Convention have also aligned their domestic laws with the various directives. The Russian Federation highlighted regional cooperation among countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States through the plan on the prevention of human trafficking for the period 2014-2018. OHCHR highlighted the work undertaken by the Alliance Expert Coordination Team of the Organization for Security and Cooperation and Europe, which organized a number of international and regional events on the issue of trafficking. Paraguay highlighted cooperation among countries of the Organization of American States and the work being undertaken under the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women.

29. In contributing to regional coordination efforts some countries reported having hosted, co-hosted or participated in regional, subregional or multilateral technical expert meetings, task forces or initiatives on trafficking in persons (Australia, Denmark, Finland, Italy, Mexico, the Philippines and Switzerland). Australia reported having worked with countries in its region to update laws on trafficking or implement action plans. Many countries have also concluded bilateral cooperation agreements/partnerships or meetings to end trafficking in persons (Cuba, Denmark, Georgia, Japan, Lithuania, the Philippines, Romania and Switzerland). During the reporting period, there was increased reporting on cooperation with non-governmental organizations and civil society (Australia, Canada, Finland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Mexico, Romania and Singapore).

30. Some countries referred to specific assistance programmes or projects that they had funded, or for which funding had been received, to combat trafficking or

strengthen international capacity in the fight against trafficking (Australia, Denmark, Kuwait, Paraguay, Romania and Spain). A United Nations entity also reported having worked to support international, regional and bilateral cooperation (OHCHR).

D. Prevention measures and awareness-raising

31. Education, training and awareness-raising programmes aimed at improving knowledge and awareness of human trafficking and its risks are the most common measures being implemented by the majority of reporting States in relation to prevention. For example, Georgia has included a mandatory course on trafficking for all law students in the curriculum at the State University in Tbilisi. Other activities include the publication of communications in electronic and print media; the production of films and radio and television programmes; the creation of interactive websites; and discussions on the prevention of human trafficking as part of school and university curricula. Many of the activities are carried out in multiple languages and in cooperation with partners, including non-governmental organizations, international and regional organizations, national human rights institutions and members of the media and the business sector.

32. Information campaigns have been developed targeting specific groups such as children and young people (Luxembourg), women who may be vulnerable to trafficking under the guise of marriage (the Philippines), indigenous/aboriginal communities (Canada) and the tourism sector (Cuba and Spain).

33. In preventing trafficking, it is also important to address the factors that make people, particularly women and girls, vulnerable to trafficking. Very few of the reporting States highlighted efforts to address such factors as poverty, unemployment, gender equality and the economic empowerment of women and girls in their own countries. Both Finland and Georgia reported that efforts to prevent inequality, social exclusion and poverty (including by reducing unemployment) and address discrimination against women were key priorities in their government programmes. Georgia also reported that it was focusing on enhancing the quality of education to facilitate employment. Pakistan reported that it had increased services to address poverty, and the Philippines noted the vulnerability of migrant workers to human trafficking as among the primary problems resulting from migration. Australia, Poland and Slovenia have focused their efforts on increasing awareness among migrant and foreign workers of their rights in relation to the workplace in order to prevent discrimination and exploitation. The majority of the submissions of reporting States were still focused on their efforts to criminalize trafficking and their approaches to providing victims of trafficking, particularly women and girls, with protection and support services following their victimization.

34. United Nations entities also supported or conducted prevention and awareness-raising initiatives by supporting high-level dialogues and international conferences (the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)) and supporting national campaigns to eradicate trafficking (the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime). Many also played a prominent role in the preparations and activities for the first World Day against Trafficking in Persons, celebrated on 30 July 2014 (including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, IOM, OHCHR and UNESCO). Again, however,

the efforts reported were not directed at addressing the specific root causes of or risk factors for trafficking. This appears to remain a significant gap and challenge in the overall response to trafficking in women and girls.

35. In humanitarian situations, the levels of insecurity, as well as the breakdown in family and community structures and other safety nets, increase the exposure of women and girls in particular to all forms of violence, including trafficking. Only Georgia and Pakistan acknowledged the additional vulnerability of women and girls in humanitarian situations. Georgia reported that it had been training its military, peacekeeping and humanitarian personnel deployed in conflict, post-conflict and other emergency situations since 2007 to ensure that they did not promote, facilitate or exploit trafficking in women and girls in those environments. Pakistan highlighted that its National Disaster Management Authority, together with relevant authorities at the provincial level, had worked with international organizations to provide services that had decreased the vulnerability of women and girls to trafficking, although specific details about those services were not provided. The United Nations system has also been working in partnership with countries at the national and regional levels to enhance the protection of refugee and displaced women and girls (UNDP Iraq). Given the fragile security environments in many countries and the devastating consequences of conflict and natural disasters in many regions, more prevention efforts will be required to ensure that women and girls who are affected by these situations do not become vulnerable to traffickers.

E. Capacity-building

36. All professionals who respond to trafficking in women and girls need to have the capacity to deal with trafficking in a gender-sensitive and effective manner. Nearly all States reported that they had provided training programmes and produced and issued guidelines and manuals on trafficking in women and girls and, in some cases, on the human rights of women and children. These were frequently geared towards government officials, in particular immigration and diplomatic personnel, police officers, prosecutors, judicial personnel, border officials, social and health workers, teachers, workplace/labour inspectors, staff in detention facilities, military and peacekeeping personnel, transport personnel and others who might come into contact with women and girls who had been trafficked. The scope of such training included the investigation and prosecution of perpetrators and the identification and protection of and support for victims/survivors. Luxembourg reported its requirement for ongoing training by magistrates, and Germany has developed standards for the training of relevant professionals. Notably, between 2011 and 2013 the Philippines conducted 13,463 police-community relations training seminars on trafficking in persons and 32,306 information drives or dialogues nationwide to increase community awareness and seek cooperation in addressing the issue.

37. During the reporting period, United Nations entities (UNICEF, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women)) also conducted training or held capacity-building events on trafficking in cooperation with other organizations and institutions and Member States. UNICEF, for example, undertook capacity-building with police, prosecutors and judges in 73 countries, and UN-Women helped to increase the capacity of the Government and civil society to develop strategies for preventing trafficking in women and girls in India.

F. Protection and services for victims/survivors

38. Victims of trafficking must be correctly identified so that they can be provided with appropriate protection and support. In some cases, women and girls are not identified as victims of trafficking, but are detained and deported as illegal migrants. While the identification of victims remains challenging for States, various countries have increased their efforts in this area. Both Cyprus and Paraguay have developed comprehensive manuals and protocols to assist officials in the identification of victims and in addressing the complexities involved in this process.

39. In an increasing number of countries, protection and support services are available for victims/survivors of trafficking, in many cases specifically women or children. Such services may include medical, psychological, legal and social/financial assistance, as well as witness protection and shelters, which are often run in cooperation with non-governmental organizations and with the financial support of States (Australia, Canada, Georgia, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Singapore and Ukraine). In order to facilitate access to services, some States have developed national referral mechanisms and/or hotlines for victims/survivors or their families (Georgia, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Philippines and Poland). Paraguay has established a specific structure within the Government to ensure that all victims, without discrimination, are identified and protected and receive assistance. Some States have also developed specialized responses, support services or centres for children who are victims/survivors of trafficking and/or abuse (Lithuania, Pakistan and Romania). Italy reported on the development of good practice at the local level, where survivors of trafficking have been trained as cultural mediators to support other victims. While the majority of States reported that services were available for victims/survivors, only some of them (Australia, Canada, Georgia, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Slovenia and Spain) provided information on either the accessibility of such services to victims/survivors or the funding allocated for such services. Spain reported the development of an information guide on available services for victims of trafficking. Romania reported that a draft law was being considered in that country aimed at regulating the granting of public funds to support non-governmental organizations, which was currently being done through the national coordination mechanism. Georgia has created a State fund for the protection of and assistance to victims/survivors of trafficking through legislation.

40. Some countries reported having undertaken programmes for the rehabilitation, reintegration and return of victims/survivors, in cooperation with IOM and/or non-governmental organizations, in order to ensure sensitive and victim-centred responses, including assistance in the identification of victims (Georgia, Italy and Paraguay).

41. A majority of reporting States referred to the provision of temporary and/or permanent residency permits. With some exceptions (Canada, Georgia and Italy), the provision of temporary or extended stay was contingent on the victims/survivors' cooperation with law enforcement and their participation in prosecution, although the provision of immediate protection support and assistance was not. This remains an ongoing challenge to the development of a victim-centred and rights-based response to trafficking in human beings.

42. Some United Nations entities also contribute directly or indirectly to the delivery of direct protection and support services to victims/survivors of trafficking, through technical assistance provided to various countries (UNDP Europe and Commonwealth of Independent States region and UNICEF).

43. Other means by which the United Nations system contributes to the protection of and support for individuals is the provision of funds to non-governmental organizations to enhance direct service delivery. The two main trust funds managed and coordinated by the United Nations to provide such grants are the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, administered by OHCHR, and the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, administered by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. In 2012, 40 per cent of the grants of the fund administered by OHCHR were awarded to civil society organizations for projects focused on assisting victims/survivors of trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation, forced labour and the worst forms of child labour. In 2013, 50 per cent of the grants were awarded to civil society organizations for projects related to trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation and forced labour in the five regions of the world. A majority of the victims assisted included women and children.

44. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime reports that in 2011, the trust fund that it administers granted funding to 11 non-governmental organizations for a period of three years, and that in 2014 those grantees have started to implement the final year of that funding. A second call for proposals will take place later this year after an independent evaluation has delivered its findings on this first grant-making cycle.

G. The role of the business sector and media providers

45. States recognize the important role that the private sector can play in combating and preventing trafficking in women and girls, as well as the need to intensify collaboration, particularly with the tourism industry and Internet service providers. In some cases, the business community creates and adopts self-regulatory mechanisms, such as codes of conduct, to prevent and combat trafficking. Australia is working with business to examine ways to address human trafficking and related exploitation, such as forced labour, in the supply chain for both imported and domestically produced goods.

46. Media and other business sector providers are important partners in raising awareness and disseminating information. Switzerland reported having worked with the private sector on awareness-raising campaigns. Training for media representatives is conducted periodically in many countries to ensure sensitive and accurate reporting about trafficking and victims/survivors. Other countries, including Singapore, referred to their support for conferences organized by United Nations entities and awareness-raising efforts with the business community such as the "Business against Trafficking in Persons" conference, organized by UN-Women and the Humanitarian Organization for Migration Economics. While States acknowledged the importance of working with the business sector and the media, further and more focused efforts on the part of States are required.

H. Data collection and research

47. Research and the availability and exchange of data are essential for the development and implementation of better legislation and policies as well as other targeted measures, including services for victims/survivors. In addition to the fact that the number of cases that come to the attention of the police, courts or service providers is small, the methodologies for the collection of such data differ and estimates of the number of victims/survivors vary, making it difficult to share information and approach the problem in a more systematic way. In his recent report on improving the quality and availability of statistics on crime and criminal justice for policy development (E/CN.15/2014/10), presented at the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Secretary-General pointed out the need for further development of methodological tools for the measurement of crime, including trafficking in persons.

48. Some States reported efforts to initiate, enhance or diversify the collection and analysis of data on trafficking in persons in order to gain a better understanding of the prevalence of trafficking as well as the extent of the gaps in knowledge and understanding of the issue. This was undertaken through research programmes, training or formal studies, sometimes in cooperation with research institutes (Australia, Singapore and Switzerland). Many States reported having collected some forms of data, some of which were disaggregated by sex and/or age (Denmark and Georgia), but the collection had been focused mainly on administrative data from the criminal justice system (Denmark, Spain and Switzerland), although some States had included data from victim services (Australia, Luxembourg and Slovenia) and other governmental departments such as those responsible for social services (the Philippines).

49. Fewer countries reported having collected a broader range of data such as on the identified causes of trafficking in women and children, the nationalities of victims/survivors, and the identified forms of exploitation. Paraguay and Italy have developed national databases on trafficking in human beings focusing on the assistance provided to victims and, in the case of Paraguay, including information on how the victim was identified and the context of the victimization, data relevant to trafficking, and data relevant to detection. Italy reported that its database facilitated the monitoring, on a real-time basis, of the number of victims assisted at the national level as well as the identification of new trends or changes in trafficking patterns. Since 2012, Romania has been producing an annual report on the situation of trafficking in that country, based on data collected on identified victims, and Denmark has developed a set of indicators against which to collect data. The Philippines acknowledged the challenges of integrating data from all relevant entities and the need to harmonize this information to ensure that the appropriate assistance and interventions could be provided to victims.

50. Some States highlighted promising steps to strengthen the knowledge base on trafficking in women and girls in their own jurisdictions. Canada, for example, has developed a baseline report on domestic human trafficking for sexual exploitation that provides insight into the nature and extent of such trafficking in that country and identifies the current gaps and challenges in its response.

51. United Nations bodies and organizations also contribute to the overall bank of knowledge on trafficking through the collection of data and research, undertaken to

better understand and improve responses to trafficking. They do so in a number of ways, including by supporting studies and research (the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia and UNDP Nepal), compiling and maintaining or coordinating the global trafficking statistics and databases (the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, ILO and IOM) and developing databases on the jurisprudence of human rights mechanisms (OHCHR) or human trafficking judicial outcomes (the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime). In addition to the development of the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons* by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the human trafficking case law database of the Office reached an important milestone this year, as it now includes detailed information on more than 1,000 trafficking cases from 83 countries, the lessons learned from which are crucial in assisting law enforcement and justice practitioners around the world, given the low number of prosecutions and convictions.

V. United Nations efforts to achieve greater coordination and capacity development to support national efforts

52. Intergovernmental and expert bodies continue to develop new or advance existing efforts to better coordinate national and international efforts to combat trafficking. For example, the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, facilitated by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, carried out a number of activities during the reporting period to support Member States in combating trafficking, including by assisting countries in implementing the relevant conventions and protocols and the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons.

53. The Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons[9] continued to hold meetings and carry out its work to improve cooperation and coordination between United Nations entities and other international organizations to facilitate a holistic approach to preventing and combating trafficking in persons. During the reporting period, the Group formalized its governance structure by adopting terms of reference, institutionalizing its rotating chairmanship and its working group, composed of six member organizations as its decision-making body, and formulating a workplan, which will guide its programme of work on an annual basis as from 2014. In 2013, it published a paper entitled "The international legal frameworks concerning trafficking in persons", which is the first in a series of policy papers developed jointly by its member organizations, discussing key issues, as identified and agreed upon by them, that represent a critical challenge for the international community in the fight against trafficking in persons in the coming decade.

54. At the regional level, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, together with IOM, co-chairs the Asia Pacific Regional Thematic Working Group on International Migration including Human Trafficking to ensure a coordinated response to migration and human trafficking in that region. Neither the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons nor the regional-level coordination mechanism referred to any specific work on trafficking in women and girls.

[9] The Group is coordinated by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, but is currently chaired by IOM and was chaired by ILO in 2013.

VI. Conclusions and recommendations

Conclusions

55. Fewer States provided submissions during the reporting period, possibly owing to the request made to Member States in September 2013 to undertake national reviews of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and to submit those reviews by 1 May 2014.

56. Actions continue to be taken at all levels to prevent and address trafficking in persons, many of which are focused on trafficking in women and children. While States were invited to report on initiatives that responded to trafficking in women and girls, the vast majority did not distinguish between responses relating to girls and those relating to children more broadly, even though more girls than boys are victims of trafficking.

57. Adherence to relevant international instruments continues to increase, and the majority of reporting States have carried out legal reforms to varying degrees. While States are making some efforts aimed at ensuring that existing and new laws are being enforced consistently and effectively and that members of the police force, prosecutors and the judiciary are adequately trained, evidence shows that prosecution rates continue to be low.

58. National action plans and accompanying coordination mechanisms are critical to ensuring that responses to trafficking are systematic and consistent. While nearly all reporting States have developed national action plans and established national coordination bodies to assist in the implementation of plans, during the reporting period very limited information was provided on the outcomes of any evaluations or assessments of national action plans that could be shared more broadly to assist other States in developing promising initiatives and strategies.

59. Many States are parties to varying regional, multilateral and bilateral agreements and arrangements that are critical owing to the transnational and cross-border nature of trafficking and for States to continue to build capacity in responding to trafficking. Many of these arrangements continue to be focused on efforts to apprehend and prosecute traffickers. More efforts could be focused on cooperation for prevention as well as victim support and assistance.

60. While many reporting States have carried out educational programmes, awareness-raising campaigns and other initiatives, there is a need to reinforce efforts and resources in the area of prevention that are focused on addressing the root causes of trafficking, especially in countries of origin. Very limited information in relation to addressing root causes was reported by Member States. This area requires a greater focus in the future, including with respect to the intersections between migration and trafficking in persons.

61. Very few Member States reported on improving the prevention of trafficking in women and girls in humanitarian situations, including in conflict/post-conflict environments, natural disasters and other emergency environments. Given the devastating consequences for women and girls in these circumstances and their heightened vulnerability to exploitation and trafficking, more focus on the part of States is required in this area.

62. Many States continue to find it difficult to identify trafficking victims, although there is a greater focus on building the capacity of officials in this area. Once identified, however, trafficking victims/survivors require timely access to specialized support services. While many countries have established or enhanced support services for trafficking victims/survivors, especially women and children, few States reported that temporary and permanent residence was available to all victims/survivors irrespective of a victim's ability or willingness to assist in criminal proceedings. A rights-based approach to trafficking requires that full support and assistance be provided to all victims of trafficking, irrespective of their willingness to engage in criminal proceedings.

63. With the exception of working with the media and, in some cases, the tourism sector, few States reported collaboration with the private sector, particularly in relation to supply chains in industry or domestic servitude that foster demand for forced labour.

64. Despite increased efforts to improve the knowledge base regarding the scope and nature of trafficking in women and girls, data continue to be unreliable and deficient or focused primarily on outcomes of the criminal justice system. Statistical data need to be comprehensive and to be disaggregated by sex, race, age, ethnicity and other relevant characteristics. More comprehensive data, collected and analysed in a globally consistent and comparable way, allow for the development of improved and more targeted international solutions.

Recommendations

65. Given that the majority of detected victims/survivors of trafficking are women and girls, all States should ensure that the prevention of and responses to trafficking continue to take into account the specific needs of women and girls, especially in addressing specific forms of exploitation such as sexual exploitation and domestic servitude. The responses of States should be rights-based and, where relevant, address risk factors that increase vulnerability to trafficking, including gender inequality.

66. All States should ensure that specific laws criminalizing all forms of trafficking in persons, especially women and girls, are developed in accordance with the standards set by the Convention and associated Protocols and that sentences and penalties are in line with those for other serious crimes, including enhanced penalties for aggravating circumstances.

67. Laws and policies on labour and migration, as they intersect with trafficking, should also be reviewed and aligned with international standards to ensure that responses to trafficking are comprehensive and based on human rights.

68. Efforts must continue to ensure the effective and gender-sensitive enforcement of anti-trafficking legislation and to hold the perpetrators accountable for their crimes. In addition to systematic training for relevant personnel, States should consider developing specialized responses to trafficking through the creation of specialized police units, prosecution offices, judges and/or courts, as well as specific protection programmes for witnesses and their families, to assist in efforts to increase the number of investigations and prosecutions.

69. States should ensure that they have a national plan that is current, responsive to the particular vulnerability of women and girls and comprehensive in nature. States should also have adequate national coordination mechanisms that are multisectoral and comprise relevant stakeholders and service providers, including non-governmental and civil society organizations where relevant.

70. States should also ensure that their national action plans are adequately funded and are monitored and evaluated on a regular basis in order to identify and assess the impact of their efforts in combating trafficking. States should also consider establishing an independent oversight mechanism such as a national rapporteur to ensure that plans and strategies are effective.

71. States should continue to develop and implement bilateral, multilateral and regional agreements and arrangements to ensure effective action in all areas of combating trafficking in women and girls. Given the transnational nature of trafficking, further multilateral cooperation among countries of origin, transit and destination is required to ensure that prevention is prioritized and trafficking responses are comprehensive.

72. In developing and implementing prevention measures, States should take more action to address the factors that make people, especially women and girls, vulnerable to trafficking, particularly in relation to reducing poverty and unemployment and providing access to education. States should also consider awareness-raising targeted to groups that are at increased risk of becoming victims of trafficking.

73. Given the enhanced vulnerability of women and girls in the range of humanitarian situations to trafficking, States should specifically include the prevention of the trafficking of such women and girls in all national, regional and international initiatives.

74. States should continue to enhance the protection of and support for victims/survivors and ensure a rights-based approach to the issue of trafficking in women and girls. Given the importance of the participation of the victims of trafficking in criminal proceedings, States should extend the reflection time for victims; protect victims from prosecution for any legal violations committed in the course of being trafficked; provide temporary or, where necessary, permanent residency to victims, irrespective of their participation in criminal proceedings; and provide appropriate long-term support and rehabilitation to enable victims to reintegrate into society and begin new lives.

75. States should continue to work with media, but also encourage and foster relationships with other private sector organizations, particularly with respect to the adoption of self-regulatory mechanisms and codes of conduct by different industries, and form partnerships with business to address demand in supply chains.

76. States should develop processes to enhance and intensify data collection as well as improve and harmonize the methodologies for monitoring and evaluation. In doing so, States should actively participate in all international efforts to develop methodological tools that assist with the collection and analysis of data for the purpose of improving coordinated international efforts to combat trafficking, particularly trafficking in women and girls.